

# Tribal Citizen Prepares for Overseas Play

**BY CHRIS C. JENKINS**  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Young, talented and blessed are good ways to describe Tribal citizen Jerome Davis Jr.

Many can only imagine sharing his upcoming journey as he prepares to travel the world visiting the likes of Italy, Spain, France and Greece.

Soon he will be able to explore his potential, fulfill his dreams and hopefully reach stardom as a professional basketball player.

According to Team Florida Basketball Director Lisa Ingram and President Ken Patrick, Davis and seven other players will make the trek overseas for 20 days to begin workouts toward the goal of playing in the pro ranks beginning July 6.

It is a journey the 21-year-old looks forward to. It will also be a first for the Hollywood Hills High School graduate on many levels. It will be his first time outside the United States; he will also be the first Seminole to go pro through Team Florida, and it will be the first time an exception has been made for an athlete his age.

Ingram said potential first year college students ages 18-20 are normally in Team Florida's target age range. Davis, however, is an exception to the rule this time.

It will be a very educational thing for these kids that have never been out of the country," Ingram said.

□ Please see DAVIS on page 2A

# Preschoolers Prepare for Their Next Step

## Graduation Ceremony Held for Senior Students

**BY RACHEL BUXTON**  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Brighton's senior preschoolers took the next step in their academic careers as they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas at the preschool graduation held May 20 in the Brighton Gym.

Master of ceremonies John Madrigal welcomed family, friends and teachers to the ceremony. Parents of the graduating preschoolers sat in the center with individual posters decorated with pictures of their child designating their seats.

Brighton Board of Directors Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. made his way to the stage to congratulate the senior preschoolers.

"This is one of the biggest steps in their life," said Rep. Jones. "The best way to be with the kids is to show them and teach them what to do."

The preschoolers made their way onto the stage for the flag salute. Lined up across the stage, the graduating children said the pledge of allegiance to the American flag and then in their native Creek language said the pledge to the Seminole flag.

Continuing in their Creek language the children serenaded the crowd singing "10 Little Indians" and "Ace's." After singing, the students made their way off the stage in preparation for their individual introductions.

One by one the students came on stage and

□ Please see PRESCHOOL on page 2A

# Tribal Council Holds Special Meeting

**BY MARISOL GONZALEZ**  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Tribal Council convened for a special meeting in the Big Cypress Community Center on May 20.

Prior to discussing and passing the resolutions, the council listened to presentations.

First, Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen presented Bob Luciano of Bally Technologies with the first gaming machine his company installed when Luciano began providing machines to the Tribe. Following that, several Seminole Police Dept. officers received recognition for various achievements, which included community recognition.

The Tribal Council passed 27 resolutions at the meeting, 16 from the Consent Agenda and 11

□ Please see COUNCIL on page 2A



(L-R) Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., Brighton Board of Directors Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr., Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. and Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. at the Inauguration event.

# Inauguration Ceremony Brings In Leadership

**BY CHRIS C. JENKINS**  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — As part of inauguration ceremonies June 1, the newly-elected Tribal Council and Board of Directors members swore in to their positions beneath the historic Council Oak tree, located on the grounds of the Seminole Casino-Hollywood.

Big Cypress/Immokalee Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Brighton/Tampa Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Hollywood/Ft. Pierce Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Big Cypress/Immokalee Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., Hollywood/Ft. Pierce Board Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Brighton/Tampa Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. all took an oath of office to begin work in their elected positions before a crowd of family, friends and Tribal employees.

The three outgoing officials, Hollywood/Ft. Pierce Board Rep. Gloria Wilson, Brighton/Tampa Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith and Big Cypress/Immokalee Board Rep. Cicero Osceola, each offered thoughts and remarks

about their time in office.

Bureau of Indian Affairs-Seminole Agency Acting Superintendent Ben Picotte presided over the swearing in procedures. The elected officials then addressed the audience, speaking about their goals, hopes and responsibilities.

"They always say that history is being made every day in our culture and this is just another part of that," said Brighton/Tampa Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. "When I first got in, I said my intentions were to represent the community and that is what I have done. I think I have been successful because they supported me and gave me a chance."

Rep. Jones will be serving his fourth term on the Board of Directors.

Another long-term elected official, Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., has represented the Hollywood Reservation for the past 24 years.

"Our responsibility as a Council today is to make sure every Tribal member is taken care of," he said. "Historically, our hunters would go out

□ Please see INAUGURATION on page 10A



Newly-elected Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. (Near Right) and other members of Tribal Council and Board of Directors greet Tribal citizens and guests after the ceremony.

# A Star is Born at Brighton Veterans' Building Grand Opening



A view of the star-shaped Seminole Veterans' Building from the air at the May 28 opening.

## Building Designed in Shape of a Star Unveiled to Public

**BY RACHEL BUXTON**  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Community members, employees, surrounding county diplomats and even a state congressman came out to honor and support past and present Seminole warriors at the Brighton Veterans' Building grand opening ceremony, held May 28 in Brighton.

"It's been a long time coming," said master of ceremonies and Seminole veteran Andrew Bowers Jr.

Pastor Wonder Johns, also a Seminole veteran, began the ceremony by giving the invocation where he prayed for the protection of the U.S. armed forces.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Color Guard held their flags high and marched on stage.

Members of the Color Guard included Army veteran Stephen Bowers carrying the U.S. flag, Marine Corps veteran Paul Bowers Sr. carrying the Seminole Tribe of Florida flag, Army veteran Joe Osceola Jr. carrying the Seminole Tribe of Florida

Veteran flag, Air Force veteran David Billy carrying the state of Florida flag and Navy veteran David Nunez carrying the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action flag.

The Color Guard displayed the colors at attention arms while students from Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School took the stage for the Pledge of Allegiance.

With colors still at attention, Victoria Osceola of the Naples community sang the National Anthem. Following the anthem, the Color Guard posted the colors.

The students from Pemayetv Emahaky performed a musical presentation of the song "This Land is Our Land" in their native Creek language.

Students from the Ahfahkee School on the Big Cypress Reservation sang their rendition of the same song in their native Mikasuki language.

During the ceremony Tribal officials, Tribal royalty and dignitaries were recognized.

"Today we have been blessed to have

□ Please see VETERANS on page 11A



## DAVIS

The two met several years ago while Davis participated in the Lisa Ingram Invitational Basketball Tournament. Her annual event recently took place

this month June 12-14 at the Hollywood Gym.

"He had a great charisma and saw the floor very well," Ingram acknowledged. "He looked like he could play every position."

Standing at 6'2", the quiet, reserved dynamo can play the point guard, shooting



(L-R) Jerome Davis Jr. practices a few moves with Fitness Dept. Program Director Jeff Garland.

## PRESCHOOL

From page 1A

introduced themselves to the audience, saying their name and their parents' names. After introductions the children gathered on stage together again to sing to the crowd. The students got the crowd laugh-

## Class of 2009 Brighton Preschool Graduates

Jahocle Arnold  
Diego Meras  
Jaytron Baker  
Tammie Martinez  
Pherian Baker  
Alice Osceola  
Kenai Billie  
Edrie Robbins  
Caleb Burton  
Lashae Tellez  
Leilani Burton  
Elle Thomas  
Mariah Garner  
Tatiana Torres  
Shyla Holata  
Karylene Urbina  
Tehya Howard  
Joss Youngblood  
Corey Jumper

ing with their dance moves and English renditions of "Baby Fish" and "Tooty-ta." For a brief walk down memory lane a senior slide show played snapshots of each graduating student. Baby photos popped up along with memorable pictures of the young children during their short but so far eventful lives.

Following the slideshow was a rose presentation. Students walked in one at a time and presented their parents with a single rose and a great big hug. As the students walked down the aisle Madrigal read bios on each child including what their favorite color and food are, along with what they want to be when they grow up.

Rep. Jones took the stage to make the graduation official by handing out the well-deserved diplomas.

"This is a proud moment," said Rep. Jones.

guard and small forward positions. However, he said there are improvements he needs to make in his game.

"I still need to work on my ball handling," he admitted.

It has been a long road for Davis and one which he feels has prepared him for his present journey.

After a stint with a southern California junior college, he decided to return home but has been spending a lot of time sharpening his game in leagues throughout Broadway County.

"Jerome will be one of the main assets for us," Ingram said. "When his mother came to me I just realized that college is just not for him."

"I want him to have a big to show that he does not have to have a college backing him," Ingram pointed out.

Ingram also made it clear that neither she nor the Team Florida organization will receive any payments or perks from Davis signing to play with a team. He is currently represented by sports agent Pedro Powers of United World Sports out of Miami.

"I just really like him and think he could make an extreme difference [over seas]," she said. "He is a nice kid and has a lot of talent."

He is also very coachable, a good shooter, he is strong, and has great court awareness," she said.

Davis' mother Patricia Wilcox has also been impressed by his dedication.

"I feel it is all well deserved because

he has worked so hard," Wilcox said. "He has worked very hard and has been trained at the gym every day and he has never given up."

"He is dedicated to basketball and if he is not doing that then he is going crazy," she added.

Hollywood Recreation Dept. Basketball Coach and former teammate Carlos Adamson has seen a marked development in his game.

"He has always had the athletic ability, but the biggest improvement in his game has been his mental approach," Adamson explained. "Instead of just stepping on to the court and playing basketball, he now knows what he is doing."

Davis said he hopes to follow in the steps of two other high profile overseas hoopsters, Brandon Jennings and Ricard "Ricky" Rubio. Both have already made the leap to the professional leagues outside the U.S. without college experience.

Jennings is most recognized as the first player to play for a European team rather than for a college basketball team in 2008 due to the National Basketball Association (NBA) placing an age restriction rule on entrants into its draft in 2006.

Rubio became the youngest player ever to play in the Spanish Association of Basketball Club League in 2005.

All three share the same ultimate goal of playing in the NBA someday.

For more information on Team Florida please call Lisa Ingram at (754)422-3828.



## Happy Fathers Day!

Father's Day is a day to remember and honor your father, past or present. I recall the days spent with my father, and I will always remember his role in the family — he worked hard to make sure he took care of our needs. I appreciate all the sacrifices made by my father to insure the needs of our home and family were met, no matter what it took. If you're a father, I implore you to take an active role in the lives of your children. Time passes right before your eyes and before you know it, the children are adults and you've missed out on some of the most wonderful years of their life. Enjoy your Father's Day and do the best that you can to be a part of the lives of your children. God bless you and your families on this Father's Day and everyday.

Sho-na-bish,  
Mvto,  
Thank you,

*Mitchell Cypress*

Mitchell Cypress, Chairman  
Seminole Tribe of Florida



Rachel Benton

The soon-to-be kindergartners receive bags filled with school supplies for the up-coming year.

## COUNCIL

From page 1A

from the Regular Agenda. The following items came from the Consent Agenda:

Resolution 9: Release of interest in a homestead from Bruce Harvey Deitz - Hollywood Seminole Indian reservation.

Resolution 10: Issuance of a new homestead lease to Trishana Mary Storm - Hollywood Seminole Indian reservation.

Resolution 11: Service line agreement (355' x 5') between Enbarq and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of a telephone line to the homestead of Mariann Ruby Billie - Big Cypress Seminole Indian reservation.

Resolution 12: Service line agreement (100' x 20') between Glades Electric Co-

operative, Inc. and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of an electric power line to the Pemayety Emahaky (Charter School) - Brighton Seminole Indian reservation.

Resolution 13: Fifth Amendment to annual work plan 21 submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Resolution 14: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding request for fiscal year 2010 general assistance in environmental programs for the Seminole Tribe of Florida for all Seminole Indian reservations.

Resolution 15: Tribal response program fiscal year 2010 grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for all reservations of the Seminole Tribe of Florida for the purpose of public health and cultural use preservation.

Resolution 16: U.S. Department of Energy grant application for funding of the fiscal year 2010 Seminole Tribe of Florida energy efficiency and conservation program for all Seminole Indian reservations.

Resolution 17: Universal weather and aviation, Inc. non-exclusive software license agreement and software support and services agreement.

Resolution 18: U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Aircraft Services aircraft rental agreement.

Resolution 19: DirecTV, Inc., third amendment to agreement for DBS satellite exhibition of programming.

Resolution 20: Request to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs to enter into a consultation agreement with WHPacific, Inc. to update the Seminole Tribe of Florida Indian reservation roads inventory, long range transportation plan review, cost to construct estimate, roadway pavement analysis and asset collection data for inventory year 2010.

Resolution 21: Preston Baker application for a loan to build a home on the Brighton Seminole Indian reservation; ratification of pre-approval of the loan.

Resolution 22: Roy Snow and Diane Snow application for a loan to replace a home on the Brighton Seminole Indian reservation; ratification of pre-approval of the loan.

Resolution 23: Standard form of agreement between owner and contractor where the basis of payment is a stipulated sum of \$653,915. Between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. for the replacement of Roy Snow and Diane Snow's single family home on the Brighton Seminole Indian reservation.

Resolution 24: Shuffle Master, Inc. Master purchase agreement, ratification. Items from the regular agenda included:

Resolution 25: Ringo Jones loan application for relocation, and expansion of

the Hapkido School, Hollywood, Florida.

Resolution 26: Jacob Osceola Jr. Loan modification.

Resolution 27: Second amended Tribal council loan program policy and procedures manual.

Resolution 28: First amendment to business lease no. L-2469 Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. (lessee) and Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessor) - Hollywood Seminole Indian reservation.

Resolution 29: Modification no. 2 of business lease no. L-206 R.S. Vlay, Inc. (lessee) and Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessor) - Hollywood Seminole Indian reservation.

Resolution 30: Revocable permit between R.S. Clay, Inc. (permittor) and Tina Devito Lacey (permittee) for office space use - Hollywood Seminole Indian reservation.

Resolution 31: Office/warehouse lease agreement between Davie Too, LLC (lessor) and Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessee) for 4,800 square foot office and warehouse space.

Resolution 32: Revocable permit between Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. (permittor) and Exquisite Touch Car Wash, Inc. (permittee) for car wash and detailing services - Hollywood Seminole Indian reservation.

Resolution 33: Request for trust status of 792.46 +/- acres in Polk County, Florida to be conveyed by S.T.O.F. Holdings, Ltd to the U.S. in trust status for the benefit and use of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Resolution 35: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention FY 2009 Tribal youth program grant application and;

Resolution 36: Ford Motor Credit Company Indian Tribal government lease/purchase agreement no. 49990 as amended by schedule 4999059: limited waiver of sovereign immunity.



## Po-taa-taa-te - en Neh ta Ke

A Tribute to our dad, Dick Bowers

We Thank You, for the things  
You did to make our lives better.

We Thank You, for being there  
In our activities.

We Thank You, for all the days  
You spent working to take care of us.

We Thank You, for the guidance and  
Wisdom you offered us so that  
We can face our life challenges.

We Thank You, for your encouragement  
To do what is right and stand  
Up for what we believe in.

We Thank God for your life and your spirit  
Is always with us. If your Dad is living today,  
Show him your love and appreciation today  
and everyday.

Ephesians 6:1-3:  
"Children, Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother. Which is the first commandment with promise. That it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Sho Naa Bish,  
Mvto,  
Thank you dad!

Rachel, Dan, Paul, Bobbie, Edna, Richard

If you are in need of a passport, I will be going to the passport agency in Miami on July 7th, 2009. We will be leaving the Hollywood office at 9:30 am. You can get applications at the secretary's office or on-line at [www.travel.state.gov/passport](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport). If you plan to go or have any questions please e-mail Nery Mejicano at [nmejicano@seminoletribe.com](mailto:nmejicano@seminoletribe.com) or Denise Freund at [denisefreund@seminoletribe.com](mailto:denisefreund@seminoletribe.com) or call 954-232-5714 before July 2nd, 2009.



Marisol Gonzalez

Bob Luciano (C) expresses his gratitude to the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Tribal Council after receiving the first gaming reader installed by his company, Bally Technologies.

## SPD Award Recipients



Bobby Betz Jeffery Akin Angela Comito Brian Signore Crystal Blount Robert Harbin Darryl Allen

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If you need a reporter or you would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem to The Seminole Tribune, please contact the Editor-In-Chief Virginia Mitchell at (954) 985-5702, Ext. 10725 or by Fax at (954) 965-2937

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# Community

A



Chris C. Jenkins

Members of the Youth Council explain what Earth Day and a clean and healthy community means to them.

## Youth Council Supports Community Clean-Up

### Youngsters Clean Reservation for Earth Day

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Tribal youth pitched in toward creating a clean and healthy community on May 14.

In support of Earth Day, observed on April 22, the Hollywood Seminole Youth Council held their first community clean-up on the reservation. They then began walking the area complete with trash bags and gloves.

"It was a good community service idea that we wanted to help out by cleaning the rez," Youth Council Vice President Deila Harjo said.

Event organizer Jarrod Smith agreed.

"We were looking to do a good act and it just happened that Earth Day was coming," Smith said. "We want to start doing more in the other communities as well."

The clean up was sponsored by the Seminole Boys & Girls Club.

"Among Native Americans, Earth Day is every week," said Boys & Girls Club Director Robert North Sr. "Native Americans are custodians of the earth so Earth Day and week are just short term. We want to work with young people here to take a good look at their environment."

"The clean-up is symbolic of reducing crime and waste," he added. "I grew up in a time when there were actual demonstrations about the earth and that time came and went. Now it seems to be back again."

North said the cleanup seemed to be a great idea and good launching pad for the Youth Council



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Dajia Baxley and Isabel Tucker place trash they found in a garbage bag.



Chris C. Jenkins

Justin Frank bends over to pick up trash during the neighborhood walk.

in establishing more community unity.

"We live in a world and time of instant gratification and we are not looking at the fact that this is [our children's] earth, we will all be gone soon," said North. "This needs to be a continuous thing. We need to raise awareness about it."

Fashioned after the Tribal Council, the Youth Council has four elected seats with Anissa Osceola serving as president, Deila Harjo as vice president, Aaron Osceola as treasurer and Dajia Baxley as secretary.

The idea for Earth Day evolved throughout several years, first beginning in about 1962. In 1969, then Senator Gaylord Nelson took a trip to Santa Barbara, Calif., to see the damage caused during the Santa Barbara Channel oil spill. Senator Nelson knew he had to do something to raise awareness to preserving the earth.

He decided Earth Day should be observed during the week of April 19-25, and April 22 in particular, because there were no exams or spring breaks, no conflicts with religious holidays such as Easter or Passover, and it was late enough in spring to have decent weather. He figured more students were likely to be in class, and there would be less competition with other events mid-week.

Approximately 20 million Americans participated in the inaugural event with the goal of creating a healthy, sustainable environment.

Now celebrated annually in the U.S., it is designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the earth's environment each year with more than 500 million people and national governments in 175 countries internationally participating.

## Tribe Co-Sponsors Governor's Hurricane Conference

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**FT. LAUDERDALE** — For the 23rd year running, the Governor's Hurricane Conference brought emergency service personnel together in preparation for the upcoming season. Hurricane season runs from June 1-Nov. 30 of each year.

The six-day affair, which began on May 15, took place at the Broward County Convention Center. This year's theme was "Maintaining the Mission in the Winds of Change."

With the season fast approaching, National Hurricane Center Director William Read said staying alert and remaining cautious are important factors.

"The number of storms and seasonal forecasting really cannot be predicted," he explained. "It is just a matter of 'if' not 'when,' so be prepared. There really are no excuses for families to take the steps to be ready and prepared."

Members of the Tribe's Emergency Management Dept., along with the American Red Cross, Florida Emergency Preparedness Association and the National Weather Service, supported the annual gathering as its four major sponsors.

Workshops, networking, training sessions and exhibits were all highlighted.

"This year's conference is vital to maintaining a sense of commitment and public service because of the current economic challenges that all of us are facing," Florida Governor Charlie Crist said in a written statement.

According to the National Hurricane Center website, www.nhc.noaa.gov, the following tips are useful in preparation for a tropical storm or hurricane: locate a safe room or the safest area in the home or within the community; determine escape routes from the home and places to meet which should be measured in tens of miles, rather than hundreds of miles; have an out-of-state friend as a family contact; make a plan now for what to do with pets in the event of an evacuation; post emergency telephone numbers by all phones and make sure children know how and when to call 911; stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a disaster supply kit; and fill up the gas tank on all vehicles.

Next year's convention will take place May 23-28 at the Broward County Convention Center.

## Senior Joe P. Billie Jr. Values Faith, Education

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Tribal citizen Joe Paul Billie Jr. was born in a time when education among Seminoles and Native Americans was rare, yet he beat the odds and attained his.

Born in 1950, seven years before the Tribe gained federal recognition by the U.S. government, and five years before the historic Civil Rights movement originated, he attempted to blaze his own path and make his own way in the world.

As the son of Joe Paul Billie Sr. and Frances Bowers, he said he was raised with two mainstays he holds even in the present day — his faith and education.

They wanted me to get the most and best education I could," Billie said of his parents. "When I was in school [my father] would often tell me to keep going with my education."

The eldest child of eight, Billie has three brothers, Ralph, Vincent and Aaron, two living sisters, Rosie and Verna, and two who have passed away, Martha and Betty.

Billie's mother died when he was young, but he maintained a very close relationship with his father up to the time of his death. He said he admired his father's devotion to his faith, saying he once served as a church pastor on the Brighton Reservation.

"He spoke God's word and spoke to different people," Billie said of his father. "We often times prayed together."

Although born in Miami, he briefly attended school in Hollywood Hills and Moore Haven, Fla., before graduating from McArthur High School in Hollywood.

He would continue his education, going to American University in Washington, DC. After a brief time there he then transferred to a school in Colorado on an academic scholarship. While there, he earned his associate's degree in liberal arts, before finally transferring again to Florida State University.

"I enjoyed all the learning experiences seeing people and getting along with everyone," Billie said.

Although he regrets never finishing his collegiate education, Billie has passed on the importance of it to his own children, Jewel and Iris Tiger. Both are working on their General Education Diplomas (GED).

Billie said at one time he had ambitions of becoming an attorney and mentioned how much he admires the job done by the Tribe's General Counsel Jim Shore.

"Anytime I need anything or have questions, I can ask him," Billie said.

He said he is also satisfied with the other leadership of the Tribe.

"I think it is all good and they are doing the things they need to do," he assured. "The overall direction the Tribe goes is important especially under the continued guidance of Jim [Shore]."

Nowadays, the grandfather of five spends his time relaxing after years of work in construction. He said he enjoys television, trips with the other seniors, attending church and time with friends such as Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Richard Bowers Jr., and others.

He is always on the go according to caretaker Vivette Charro. She has been with Billie at least four days per week since March.

"He is always ready to go and is cooperative," Charro said.



Chris C. Jenkins

NHC Director William Read



Chris C. Jenkins

Joe P. Billie Jr.







# HOLLYWOOD



Submitted by the Boys & Girls Club

(L-R) Jarrod Smith, Katelyn Young, Deila Harjo and Aaron Osceola with Seminole veteran Stephen Bowers. Club members Jonathan Bowers, Jocelyn Cypress, Daija Baxley, Isabel Tucker and Anissa Osceola are not pictured.

## Youth Celebrate Memorial Day with Seminole Veteran

### Vietnam Vet Stephen Bowers Educates Tribal Youngsters

BY ROBERT C. NORTH SR.  
Contributing Writer

**HOLLYWOOD** — Each year a number of events and holidays take place within the Seminole Tribe of Florida, including commemorating the Memorial Day holiday. Memorial Day is set aside to remember those service men and women who fought for the country's freedom.

This Memorial Day, the Hollywood Reservation teen members of the Seminole Boys & Girls Club invited Tribal Liaison for the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs Stephen Bowers, a Vietnam veteran, to share his thoughts on the U.S. military with them.

Bowers began his presentation to the youngsters, some of which had expressed interest in eventually joining the military, by talking about basic training and learning about the military's form of discipline. He went into great detail explaining about his various deployments and some of what he saw overseas as a young soldier.

"I am not telling you to go out and join the military," Bowers said. "But if there is any interest at all in a military career, it is helpful to hear about it from someone who has lived it."

Bowers has continued to stay involved in veteran's affairs throughout his life and is a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Color Guard.

# BRIGHTON

## Pemayetv Emahakv Presents 'Got Talent' Show

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The breezeway of Pemayetv Emahakv was turned into a western-themed cardboard campground, complete with a teepee, cacti, barrels and a fire for the school's "Got Talent" show held June 3.

It was a day of entertainment and making lasting memories on the last day of school as students from all grades teamed up to put together 11 knee-slapping acts and a special tribute at the show's conclusion.

"This was put together in just a couple of days," said first grade teacher Pam Hudson. "We just wanted to entertain [the students] on the last day."

As the students took their seats, parents and teachers gathered to watch the show. The music came on and a special performance to open the talent show helped raise \$500 for the March of Dimes charitable organization. School Resource Officer Darryl Allen, AKA "Shanay-enaye," danced alongside student Demetrius Clark who wore a leopard print dress. As his alter ego for the day, Allen wore a long blonde wig and had the crowd going wild as he and Clark danced for a good cause.

The kindergartners calmed things down a bit with their story telling presentation of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." One by one the students took turns telling what the very hungry caterpillar ate before becoming a great big beautiful butterfly.

The first graders, joined by a few third graders, dosey-do'd during the country jamboree. They began with a performance of the classic song "You are My Sunshine." Following the song, they swung their partners round and round.

The rest of the third graders taught the crowd a little about history with their singing rendition of "The 50 States," led by Aiyana Tommie and Cady Osceola.

Circling around a paper-made fire, the second grade students showed off their vocal skills.

Fifth grader Brydgett Koonz and second grader Krysta Burton put on a comedy routine and performed a song about the delicious chocolate treat, Snickers, to the tune of "The Star Spangled Banner."

Mrs. Tedder's class had a dance-off as they performed "The Evolution of Dance," which chronicles popular dances throughout the last several decades.

The students performed 25 different dances from all time eras. Beginning with Elvis Presley's "Hound



Rachel Buxton

Demetrius Clark and Odessa King take on the roles of student and teacher for their skit.

Dog" and evolving into the "Grease Lighting" number from the movie "Grease" and some of the moves from Michael Jackson's 1980s "Thriller" music video, the students showed off their skills. The students even performed rapper MC Hammer's popular "Hammer Time" dance before Trevor Thomas dropped to the ground to show everyone his best "Worm" dance move.

Students Odessa King and Demetrius Clark, along with the rest of the students in their grade, performed a skit that taught the teachers how to torture students. They also demonstrated the reverse, showing the students how they can torture their teachers.

Sister and brother, Rumor and Rudy Juarez, showed how music runs in their family with each singing their own special number. Rumor sang Taylor Swift's No. 1 hit "Love Story," while Rudy went a little bit country with a rendition of Billy Currington's song "Good Directions."

Tamea Allen, Keyana Nelson, Harley Johns and Cheyenne Nunez did the "Hoe Down, Throw Down" in matching outfits and synchronized steps.

The entire fifth grade ended the talent portion and their time at the Charter School with stories of their time spent at Pemayetv Emahakv.

A very special tribute closed out the "Got Talent" show honoring students' late friend, J-Wayco Billie. Selected students sang "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" in memory of Billie holding silver stars that will be placed on a tree in remembrance.

Principal Russell Brown congratulated the school on all their hidden talents.

"There's a lot of talent I have just become aware of," joked Brown.



Rachel Buxton

Fourth grader Trevor Thomas performs the "Grease Lighting" dance with his class.

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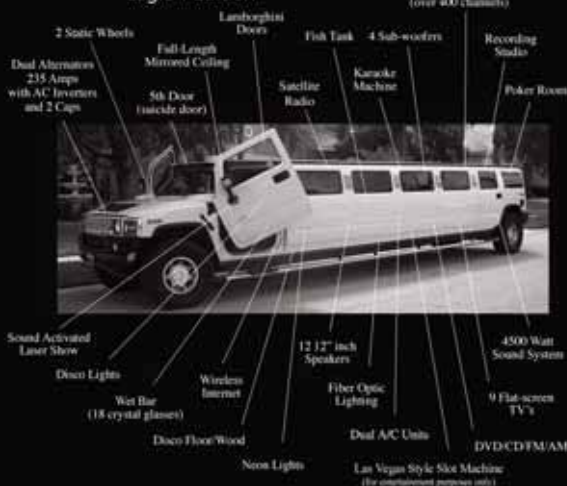


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# BRIGHTON



Norman "Skeeter" Bowers' new home located on the Brighton Reservation.

Rachel Buxton

## Community Tours Bowers' New Home at Open House

Norman 'Skeeter' Bowers Celebrates House Completion

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Norman "Skeeter" Bowers of the Brighton Reservation invited community members into his newly-built home May 15 for an open house. Built by Upland Homes, Bowers furnished and decorated his house to represent his culture.

"I dedicated the house to Seminole heritage," Bowers said. "It is important to know the history of our Seminoles."

The three bedroom, 2.5 bath home sits on the property where Bowers grew up as a child.

"It's been a long time coming," Bowers said. Friends and family dropped by for a tour and to wish Bowers well in his new house, including Bowers' uncle, President Richard Bowers Jr.

"I have a place to sleep now, right?" President Bowers joked.

The first thing people see when they walk through the front door is a painting of Seminole Chief Osceola.

Around the corner in the living room, the legend of the Kissimmee River is told through a mural that is painted on the walls. The mural wraps around the room and

across the fireplace.

The other rooms in the house also portray native history with paintings, knickknacks and even a native drum Bowers collected from his travels.

The house is decked out with a sound system with controls placed in each individual room.

On the outside of the house there are two other painted murals. Showing his devotion to Florida State University, Bowers had a mural painted on the side of the house with a Seminole football player dominating a player from the University of Florida and the University of Miami, both rival schools.

"That was more like a comedy type thing," Bowers laughed.

The front of the house truly portrays Bowers' devotion to Seminole heritage with a mural of the famous image of Chief Osceola stabbing a knife in the peace treaty with the words "Never Surrender" painted underneath.

"I think my house speaks for itself," Bowers said. "There's a lot of Seminole heritage."

During the open house Bowers had a small art gallery of paintings by Guy LaBree set up in his loft for visitors to view and purchase.

## John W. Huff Sr. Done Fighting, Ready to Play Grandfather

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — John W. Huff Sr. has traveled around the world and back, fighting not only for his country, but also his Tribe.

Huff was born in 1947 into the Bird Clan on the Brighton Reservation.

"There were no hospitals or doctors back then," said Huff. "It was a difficult way of life but they kept him alive on the battlefield."

A way of life he later discovered may have actually helped keep him alive on the battlefield.

Huff grew up on a campsite in the woods and under chickens for more than 20 years. He spent his time fishing and hunting; skills he learned from his uncles.

"They said 'I'll teach you one time and you should pick it up,'" Huff said laughing.

Huff hunted alligator, otter and anything else that could help his family eat or sell to make money.

Each day Huff's parents had to transport him to the Kissimmee River, a half-way mark between Okeechobee, Fla. and the Brighton Reservation, so they could attend school. He later transferred to the Glades County School System for high school where he was forced to register for the Selective Service.

As a junior in high school Huff registered not knowing what was in store for him. When he became a senior in high school a bus picked him and several young men up in Moore Haven, Fla. to be taken for a physical in Miami.

Right after graduation Huff was drafted and sent to Fort Jackson, S.C. for paperwork and then sent on his way to basic training at Fort Huachuca in Arizona.

"I didn't have a choice," Huff said. "I joke and say that was my senior trip."

His "senior trip" turned into a trip to Vietnam. Twenty days after returning home from basic training, Huff received his papers shipping him out to combat.

Huff was specially trained in heavy artillery and was a Specialist 4 in automatic weapons, which kept him fighting in Vietnam for more than a year.

While in the service, Huff was definitely in the minority being Native American, but he admits it was a blessing.

"I think I had an advantage," Huff said. "I was used to the woods."

There was one other Indian boy that was part of his service group. He befriended Huff and waited up the night Huff arrived so they could meet. Huff said they became good friends and that he always wondered if he made it out alive.

Being different, however, never crossed Huff's mind. He bonded with eight other Florida boys that were in his unit.

"A soldier was just another soldier," Huff said. "We were all the same for the most part."

His native culture was always present in his life and mind while overseas, he said. While in Vietnam Huff always carried a medicine pouch he obtained from a medicine man before his deployment.

"I'm into tradition, herbs and medicine," Huff said. "It did me good; I believe in it."

Relying on traditional Seminole medicine and practices reminded Huff of the battles his ancestors fought, such as the Battle of Okeechobee, which was his proud knowing he too was fighting for his Tribe.

After returning from Vietnam and finishing out his un-active duty years Huff said it was a hard adjustment re-entering the civilian world.

"My dad caught me under the bed a few times when

mosquito planes flew overhead," he said. "But I chose not let it beat me."

Life after the military left Huff working a variety of jobs trying to find the next chapter of his life. He worked cattle, farmed watermelon and cantaloupe, did carpentry work and he even helped build the famous Hog Farm on the Brighton Reservation while working for Tribal citizen and Army veteran Wonder Johns.

In 1988 Huff applied for a job as the Water Plant Operator for the Brighton Reservation. This September will mark his 21st year at the water plant. Along with working at the water plant Huff has served as Brighton Tribal Council Rep.

Huff said his days in the military were tough, but he doesn't regret it one bit.



John W. Huff Sr. stands next to the Vietnam War-era bronze soldier statue at the new Brighton Veterans Building, which he and his fellow Tribal veterans fought for.

"I learned self-respect, self-discipline, and I got to travel to different countries," he said.

Huff admits when he was younger, he, like many today, looked at holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day as just another paid holiday.

"As I got older, I realized it shouldn't be that way," he said. "I really do believe we will be the last [Tribal] veterans."

Huff currently serves as the president for the Brighton Veterans Committee and hopes to teach the Tribal youth about the pride in serving one's country and Tribe.

Huff has been married for 30 years to his wife, Vickie, and rounds out his family with five children and seven grandchildren.

His plans for the future include taking a step down from the water plant and possibly entering and enjoying retirement by spending time with his grandchildren.

"I want to teach the Council, the Board and fought a war; I have nothing else to prove."

## NAPLES

### Mary Osceola Moore Teaches Sewing Class

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**NAPLES** — Seminole artist Mary Osceola Moore recognizes the importance of teaching traditional Seminole crafts to the next generation. Following in the footsteps of her mother, grandmother and their ancestors, she passed along the basic skills that have become a part of the Seminole culture.

Volunteering for a two day workshop, held May 21-22 at the Juanita Osceola Center, Moore started what she hopes will be a series of craft programs in memory of these hard working, dedicated artisans. Accomplished in many traditional crafts, she selected cape making for the first session.

Hoping for a positive response, Moore said she was pleasantly surprised when 18 participants, ranging from 10-65 years of age, arrived with their families eager to begin. The center was a beehive of activity from the craft room to the nursery, dining room and entertainment area.

Moore began her presentation with a short background study on fabrics, clothing style evolution and patchwork designs spanning a period of more than 150 years. Moving on to her chosen subject, she displayed

examples of capes and discussed the various means of construction.

Each of the students selected and color coordinated their basic fabrics of choice from the supply shelves and then added their trim. Learning to measure, incorporate the right yoke pattern and cutting was time consuming at first, but beneficial in the long run. Within a short time the sewing machines were humming and the work in progress was beginning to take shape.

Classes were originally scheduled from 5-8 p.m. both evenings with a break for a dinner buffet. However, enthusiasm ran high and the group did not adjourn until 10 p.m. the first night and reconvened the next day at noon.

Moore was extremely thorough in her instruction and frequently examined the projects and offered helpful criticism. Striving for perfection, and wielding a seam ripper to undo mistakes, she pointed out how practicing errors makes for satisfactory results.

Carefully exposing the errors, the garments were repositioned, pinned and sewn again. When their teacher returned to examine the finished product, you could see them holding their breaths and then sigh with relief when they uttered just the one word — "Perfect."



Mary Osceola Moore (far right) keeps a watchful eye as Jessica Osceola attaches lace to her project, while (Back Row, L-R) Maggie Porter and Connie Slavik work on their projects.



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## BIG CYPRESS

# Seminole 4-H's Go On Safari

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Immokalee's 4-H members combined culture, education, wildlife preservation and a weekend of fun when they participated in a campout at Billie Swamp Safari on May 16-17.

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar sponsored the activities and invited parents and family members to accompany the group. She said the reason for the function was to reward the club members for the hard work they put into their 4-H projects.

"This is my way of congratulating them on a job well done while offering them an opportunity to learn more about their past and the environment in which they live," Liaison Aguilar said.

She explained that the 2008 participants dedicated themselves to their projects at the time of selection and had already become deeply involved by the initial steer and swine weigh-ins. The result of their total commitment was earning seven first places in addition to high ranking in many of their classes. The grand champion steer, swine and swine showmanship awards went to Immokalee youth.

It took five airboats to transport the group through the cypress swamp and along the banks of the grassy prairies of the Everglades into the land of their ancestors. Misted by the spray, they flew across the surface of the water then idled through the dense cypress head until they came within hand shaking distance of alligators, turtles and raccoons.

Attending the reptile, birds of prey and critter shows provided an opportunity to learn about the lifestyles and habitat of the animals that live in the Everglades envi-



Judy Weeks

Ezekiel Roberts (C) holds a baby alligator while fellow 4-H members and tourists peer over his shoulder.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar (R) talks about growing up around a campfire.



Submitted by Judy Weeks

The Immokalee 4-H's and their family members take in the sights on their airboat tour of the Everglades.

ronment. The anglers in the group also had the chance to cast their lines into the West Boundary Road Canal and try their skills with rods and reels.

With the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum as their destination, the 4-H's toured the exhibits and listened to a brief history of the Seminole culture, while learning about their ancestors and the role that their generation must play in shaping the future.

Following an evening meal at Billie Swamp Safari, the campers climbed aboard a swamp buggy for a night time trip through the back woods of the park.

As the sun faded from the sky, they encountered an abundance of native wildlife sharing their homeland with a wide variety of specimens from foreign lands. They were amazed to learn that many interesting creatures live practically in their own backyard and they only had to open their eyes to experience the wonders around them.

Seated by the campfire, the youngsters listened intently while William Cypress related stories that have been passed down through their oral history and then Liaison Aguilar introduced more recent times that included her childhood.

"Close your eyes and take a deep breath of the smoke from the fire," Liaison Aguilar said. "Sit very still and listen to the sounds of the night and imagine that you have just eaten a piece of deer meat, a turtle or a fish that you helped to catch and prepare, or corn that you helped to grow. This is how your grandparents and I lived and it was a good life."

Telling the children stories of her youth, she trans-



Judy Weeks

Edward Aguilar shouts over the roar of the airboat engine on his ride through the Everglades.

ported them back to another generation.

Retiring to the chickees for the night, the campers relived the events of the day. After an early morning breakfast, the group unanimously decided to take another swamp buggy trip to see the animals in the daylight and then packed up for their return home.

## NAPLES

# Community Celebrates Memorial Day at the Beach

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**NAPLES** — Members of the Naples community arrived at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park on the morning of May 25 to celebrate Memorial Day with an all day beach party.

Setting up camp in the shade of the sea grapes and palm trees, the picnic tables were draped in blue and white checkered cloths with red, white and blue accessories in memory of those who had given their lives to preserve freedom.

"Memorial Day has been set aside for us to pay our respects to the men and women who have fought valiantly to protect our country," said Cultural Outreach Specialist Sandy Osceola. "The citizens of the United States are derived from many cultures, who have adopted the principles of equal rights and freedom for everyone. Many have made the supreme sacrifice to ensure this way of life for future generations and protect their homeland. But none have fought longer, or given more, than the Native Americans. Today we hold their memories in our hearts."

The fun-filled day of activities included sunbathing, beach volleyball, swimming, playing in the surf, building sandcastles, collecting shells and spending valuable time with family and friends.

A moment of silence was dedicated to those fallen warriors, veterans and military personnel currently serving the country and protecting the American way of life.



Judy Weeks

Maggie Porter displays the Memorial Day cake, honoring the fallen warriors who fought to protect the country.



Judy Weeks

Nicole Slavik rides a wave into the surf at the edge of the beach.

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# Housing Dept. Moves to New Location

BY **MARISOL GONZALEZ**  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Big Cypress Housing Dept. held an open house on May 20 for their new of-

fices, located at 30901 Buffalo Jim North on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Attendees toured the facility, asked questions and learned about services the Housing Dept. has to offer.

The department moved from the second floor of the Family Investment Center into a larger space that can accommodate approximately 20 employees. The department currently employs more than a dozen employees.

Housing Dept. Service Manager Christina Martinez said the department moved to a larger space because of its commitment to provide the highest and best customer service for Tribal citizens.

"We are very excited to be here," Martinez said.

She added that the office also includes a conference room, whereas in their previous location the department had no formal meeting space for clients or community members.



Jim Mitchell

The new Housing Dept. offices located at 30901 Buffalo Jim North in Big Cypress.

# Seniors Visit Botanical Garden on Outing

BY **SHELLEY MARMOR**  
Staff Reporter

**MIAMI** — About 15 Tribal seniors from the Hollywood community took a trip to the Miami Beach Botanical Garden on June 9.

On their visit, the seniors toured the 4.5 acre facility which features tropical flowers and trees, an orchid garden, a Japanese garden and an indoor museum, all in the heart of Miami Beach's urban center.

At the indoor museum the seniors saw an artistic installation which featured works by Miami Beach-based artist Dina Knapp. Among other works art on display, they viewed Knapp's "Florida Seminole and Her Child" a mixed-media piece that centers around a circa 1950s photo of a Seminole woman holding her baby in a papoose.

After leaving the garden, the group went to the Dolphin Mall in Miami for some shopping and lunch at the Texas de Brazil restaurant, a Brazilian-style steakhouse.

The Miami Beach Botani-

cal Garden is located at 2000 Convention Center Drive, on the grounds of the Miami Beach Convention Center. It is open Tuesdays-Sundays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and admission is free. For more information please visit [www.mb-garden.org](http://www.mb-garden.org) or call (305) 673-7256.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Betty Osceola and Maggie Osceola at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden on June 9.

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Submitted by Holly Billie

Community Care for the Elderly staff members help seniors on the reservations with more than just basic tasks.

# Community Care for the Elderly Program Lends a Helping Hand

BY **HOLLY BILLIE**  
Contributing Writer

"There will always be more people willing to do great things than there are people who are willing to do little things." — Rick Warren

These words, written by Rick Warren, author of The Purpose Driven Life, appeared in one of his daily devotionals. As I continued to read this devotional, which also said, "Small tasks often show a big heart," I was reminded of one of our Tribal community programs, Community Care for the Elderly, or CCE.

This organization, under the direction of Alice Sweat, truly consists of individuals with big hearts, or, as their motto suggests, "Helping Hands, Caring Hearts."

In getting to know this staff, it is evident that each employee personally reflects this philosophy of caring and commitment. Each one is dedicated to completing the daily tasks assigned, no matter how insignificant they may appear to those determined to do great things.

These tasks, in reality, are not so small. In addition to defined duties, such as cleaning, laundry and yard upkeep, these folks are constantly involved in charitable activities during lunch hours and after work.

Their bake sales helped purchase a playground for at-risk children on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, food and clothing donations were delivered to Navajo lands, Christmas gifts were purchased for migrant workers and their families, just to list a few of their projects.

What they accomplish on a daily basis as they go from home to home, is so much more than sweeping and mowing. As they enter the homes on the reservations, they bring with them the love and attention so appreciated by the elderly and homebound who cherish their smiles and relish the moments of conversation they offer.

In reflecting on this program, the leadership, and each individual, the words of Mother Theresa come to mind; "Do small things with great love."

# Tribal Royalty Attends FSU Club Banquet

BY **WANDA BOWERS**  
Contributing Writer

**FT. MYERS, Fla.** — Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney, Little Mr. Seminole Lance Howard and Little Miss Seminole Aubee Billie, all from the Brighton Reservation, attended the Seminole Club of Southwest Florida's 34th annual Bobby Bowden Booster Tour "Garnett & Gold Banquet" on the evening of May 16 at the Three Oaks Banquet Facility.

The Seminole Club of Southwest Florida helps Florida State University (FSU) students, parents of students, fans and alumni, "get to know fellow Seminoles in the Southwest Florida area and ...raise money for FSU and help local students obtain scholarships," according to their official website, [www.swflseminoles.com](http://www.swflseminoles.com).

Although FSU Head Coach Bobby Bowden was unable to attend the function due to an illness, Associate Head Coach Mickey Andrews did. The Seminole royalty in attendance said the highlight of the evening was having their pictures taken with Andrews and listening to his motivational speech and the presentations from the other guest speakers.

During the evening those representing the Tribe received a standing ovation for having such a large presence at the banquet and also for supporting the university.

Also in attendance were the parents of our royalty, Janelle Osceola, James E. Billie, Larry Howard and Marilyn Doney.

Kyle Doney, an FSU graduate and brother of Jr.



Submitted by Wanda Bowers

(L-R) Janelle Osceola, Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney and FSU alum Kyle Doney at the Seminole Club of Southwest Florida's 34th annual Bobby Bowden Booster Tour Garnett & Gold Banquet.

Miss Seminole Kirsten Doney, also attended. While still in school at FSU, Doney served as the school mascot, Osceola, during several football games and planted the ceremonial spear into the ground.

Seminole Princess Committee chairperson, Christine McCall, the 2005 Miss Florida Seminole and an FSU grad, Brittany Yescas, the 2006 Miss Florida Seminole and Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers, attended the event as well.

In addition to the banquet, the Seminole Club of Southwest Florida held a "Catch and Release" fishing tournament on May 15 and a golf tournament on May 16 to round out the activities that took place during the Bobby Bowden Booster Tour.



Submitted by John & Brandy Micco-Romine

Joshlynn Micco holds a baby alligator at Gatorama during her class trip.

# Joshlynn Micco, Classmates Visit Gatorama

SUBMITTED BY JOHN & BRANDY MICCO-ROMINE

**PALMDALE, Fla.** — In May, Joshlynn Micco, 9, and her classmates took a road trip to Gatorama, a roadside central Florida wildlife attraction.

On their trip, the students discovered a lot of different animals, the alligator being just one of them. Joshlynn was real excited when she got to hold a baby alligator. They then moved on to see other animals, including a huge crocodile. All the children thought he looked

mean but were still impressed and curious.

Joshlynn and her classmates also learned more about the peacock, panther, skunk, parrots, turtle, bobcats and other animals. All these animals were locked in cages to keep everyone safe.

After eating lunch at Gatorama, Joshlynn and her classmates said bye to all their new animal friends, then got back on the bus and headed back to school. All the children said Gatorama was really fun.



# Roger Smith Bids Farewell to Tampa Community

BY RYAN WATSON  
Contributing Writer

**TAMPA** — Former Brighton/Tampa Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith visited Tampa for the final time as its representative on May 26.

Showing gratitude for his past two years of service, employees at the Tampa Field Office shared kind words about Smith, as well as presented him with farewell gifts.

"I just want to say thank you for making it a good work environment and I hope you come back another day," said Maintenance Foreman Paul Simmons.

Sgt. Robert Bronson of the Seminole Police Dept. credited Smith with bringing SPD closer to the Tampa community.

"You really helped bridge the gap between this community and SPD and we appreciated you," Bronson said to Smith.

Smith then took the stage to share his feelings about the community.

"This is my last supper" he joked before expressing his gratitude to the Tampa community. "I just

want to thank you all for giving me the chance to work for you."

He also hinted that he may run for Tribal Council representative again in two years.

"I only lost by one vote so someone needs to talk to their buddies because now I'll need two votes," Smith said.



(L-R) Roger Smith receives a farewell gift from Jim Raker, CFO of the Seminole Tribe Florida.



(L-R) Roger and Diane Smith with Tampa Liaison Richard Henry at the event.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Sonny Nevaquaya present the Head Eagle Staff to Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Richard Bowers Jr., Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. at the Tribal Council meeting briefing on May 19. The staff was presented to Nevaquaya on behalf of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Tribal Color Guard by Terry Fiddler (Cheyenne River Sioux) at the final Grand Entry during the 2009 Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, N.M. on April 24. He said he accepted it with great honor, and added that accepting the staff is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on a Tribe. During Nevaquaya's journey back home to Hollywood, he said he felt protected and honored to be with such a significant item.

## Landscape Irrigation Water Restrictions in Effect in Five Counties

### Residents in Glades, Hendry, Collier, Broward, St. Lucie Must Comply

SUBMITTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Landscape irrigation restrictions apply to all sources of water, from a utility to a private well or withdrawals from a canal, lake or pond, and all property sizes. Landscape irrigation for all property types and sizes is allowed two days a week on this schedule; odd numbered addresses on Wednesday and Saturday from 12 a.m.-10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m.-11:59 p.m., and even numbered addresses on Thursday and Sunday from 12 a.m.-10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m.-11:59 p.m.

Please keep in mind that watering is not allowed on any day between 10 a.m.-4 p.m. However, low volume systems such as drip, bubble and micro-jet systems that apply water directly to root plant zones, may be used any time.

Please also follow these additional rules to be in compliance with state laws:

New Plantings, Sod or Landscape on All Sized Property:

On the first day: New landscaping can be watered without regard to restriction on the first day it is installed. From 2-30 days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and/or Sunday; 12 a.m.-10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m.-11:59 p.m. From 31 days to 60 days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and/or Saturday; 12 a.m.-10 a.m.

and/or 4 p.m.-11:59 p.m.

Hand Watering Stressed Plants:  
Ten minutes per day on any day using a single hose with an attached automatic shut-off nozzle.

Fertilizer, Insecticide, Fungicide and Herbicide Water-In:  
Allowed during normally allowable watering days and times.

Irrigation System Repair:  
Allowed during restricted days and times for cleaning, testing, maintenance and repair no more than once per week and run time should not exceed 10 minutes per zone. An attendant must be on site in the area being tested and/or repaired.

Reclaimed Water:  
Irrigation using 100 percent reclaimed and/or supplemental reclaimed water is allowed from 12 a.m.-10 a.m. and/or 4 p.m.-11:59 p.m. any day of the week.

Vehicle Washing, Pressure Washing, Decorative Fountains and All Other Outdoor Water Uses:  
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Stephen Galla

Students from the Ahfachkee School recite the Seminole Pledge of Allegiance.



Stephen Galla

(L-R) Tribal Board of Directors members Paul Bowers Sr., the new Big Cypress Rep., incumbent Brighton Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. and the new Hollywood Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. swear in to their respective positions.



Stephen Galla

(L-R) Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress, Brighton Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr., Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. and Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. listen as emcee Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. (C) welcomes the audience to the Inauguration ceremony of Tribal Council and Board members held on June 1.

## INAUGURATION

From page 1A

and hunt and bring food back for the village. Today we are hunting deals for our living."

Also representing the Hollywood Reservation on the Board of Director's side, first-term Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. spoke about the role he thinks the Board plays in overall Tribal affairs.

"I want to help give the people back their voice and generate revenue for the whole Tribe; that way we do not have to rely on Council solely," he said. "The Board is there to go out and get business and bring business back to the Tribe for the people and help the people in business and move forward."

Rep. Osceola said he got inspiration to run for office through his grandfather, Bill Osceola. "He taught me how to treat people," Rep. Osceola said. "Their needs and wants and what can be done for them was important."

Longtime former Big Cypress/Immokalee Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. reclaimed his position on the Board, a post he held for close to 10 years.

"My focus will be helping the people again easily in the cattle, farming and land use areas," Rep. Bowers pointed out.

In addition to the swearing in ceremony, the Seminole Color Guard was on hand to present the colors and the students from both the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter and Ahfachkee Schools recited the Pledge of Allegiance, the Seminole Pledge of Allegiance and sang "This Land is Your Land." Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr., as in years past, served as emcee.

The Tribal election took place on May 11. Elections are held every two years for Tribal Council and Board representative positions.



Stephen Galla

Little Miss Seminole Aubee Billie welcomes the audience to the Inauguration ceremony.



Stephen Galla

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the Inauguration ceremony on June 1.



Stephen Galla

(L-R) Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola and Little Mr. Seminole Lance Howard wait for the ceremony to begin.



Stephen Galla

Color Guard member Joe Osceola Jr. presents the Seminole Flag during the Inauguration.



Stephen Galla

Chairman Mitchell Cypress accepts the Chairman's Leadership Award from the National Indian Gaming Association.



Stephen Galla

Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress, Brighton Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. and Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. swear in during the Inauguration ceremony.



## VETERANS

From page 1A

"this wonderful building," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress. "If you see a veteran sitting next to you, thank him."

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. shared a similar sentiment. "Today we dedicate this building not just to the veterans of today, but to all the warriors of the Seminole Tribe," said Rep. Osceola. "Remember yesterday and that will keep tomorrow alive."

U.S. Congressman of the 13th District of Florida Vern Buchanan was in attendance to share in the momentous occasion.

"I applaud the vision and persistence to make this a reality," said Congressman Buchanan. "It's a world class facility and a fitting tribute to our veterans."

Congressman Tom Rooney of the 16th District of Florida was unable to attend due to being in Iraq but had an aide present to represent his support and appreciation.

Former chairpersons were honored in a special recognition. Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. spoke on behalf of his mother and former Tribal chairwoman, Betty Mae Jumper.

"I know she would love to be here," Jumper said. "In this building there is a lot of pride and honor."

Former Tribal chairmen Howard Tommie and James E. Billie were also recognized.

Special guest speaker Lyndon Hooper, an Air Force veteran, addressed the crowd and spoke on the involvement of the Seminole Indians in America and the armed services.

"We would not be here today without their service," Hooper said.

Keynote speaker and Seminole veteran Stanlo Johns joked that Hooper stole his speech but still managed to say a few words to the crowd on how the building came to be.

More than 45 Seminole veterans were present and were applauded during a veteran roll call. Fallen soldiers were honored during a moment of silence followed by an emotional performance of Taps.

Lunch was served which included home-cooked



(L-R) Mike Tiger and Wonder John unveil the Vietnam War-era Army bronze statue.



(L-R) Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola, Jr., Miss Florida Seminole Amber Craig, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Richard Bowers Jr., (Front Row, L-R) Little Mr. Seminole Lance Howard and Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole Princess Aiyana Tommie at the official ribbon cutting ceremony of the Veterans' Building.

delicacies by Mary Jo Micco.

A formal ribbon cutting ceremony for the building followed lunch along with the unveiling of seven bronze armed forces statues created by the father-son sculpture team Bronze by Cooley of Lamont, Fla.

Individuals were able to tour the building that was designed in the shape of a star. On display in one of the rooms were arts and crafts by students from the Charter School. The James E. Billie Band performed in the main auditorium.

Later that night a special concert from country musician Travis Tritt was held at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in honor of the Seminole veterans. Tritt kept the crowd dancing and cheering to some of his old hits along with a few new songs from his latest album. The new Veterans' Building will not only be a place for Seminole veterans to gather but will serve as a multipurpose building for the Tribe to hold gatherings and possible council meetings in the future.

"It will have various uses," said Andrew Bowers Sr. "It will be a benefit to all."

The veterans will continue to keep their Tribe safe



(L-R) John W. Huff Sr., Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Jack Smith Jr. wear traditional Seminole shirts with a camouflage pattern made by Brighton community member Danielle Howard especially for the event.

by having their building serve as a shelter for community members during hurricanes and tornadoes.

"We did more than fight for our country, we fought for our Tribe," said John Huff Sr., president of Brighton Veterans' Committee.

## Seminole Veterans

Elton C. Baxley, Department of the Army  
Amos Moses Billie, United States Marine Corps  
Clifton L. Billie, Department of the Army  
Gary Billie, Department of the Army  
James E. Billie, Department of the Army  
David Billy, Department of the Air Force  
Andrew J. Bowers Jr., United States Marine Corps  
Dan Bowers, United States Marine Corps  
Eugene Bowers, Department of the Army  
Paul Bowers Sr., United States Marine Corps  
Stephen D. Bowers, Department of the Army  
Gabriel Coppedge, Department of the Army  
Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Department of the Army  
Camilla A. Frank, Department of the Army  
Joel M. Frank Sr. United States Marine Corps  
Craig Gopher, Department of the Army  
Sammy Gopher, Department of the Army  
Charles Hiers Sr., United States Marine Corps  
John W. Huff Sr., Department of the Army  
Joe L. Johns, Department of the Air Force  
Archie Johns Sr., Department of the Army  
Stanlo Johns, Department of the Army  
Timmy B. Johns, Department of the Army  
Wonder Johns, Department of the Army  
Coleman Josh, Department of the Army  
Harley Jumper, Department of the Army  
Carmelena Machevilli, Department of the Army  
Anthony K. Maus, Department of the Army  
Gary McInturf, Department of the Army  
Billie Micco, Department of the Army  
David H. Motlow Sr., Department of the Army  
Theodore S. Nelson Sr., Department of the Army  
David Nunez Jr., Department of the Navy  
Don Osceola, United States Marine Corps  
Jacob Osceola Sr., Department of the Army  
Joe Osceola Jr., Department of the Army  
Johnny Osceola, Department of the Army  
Moses B. Osceola, United States Marine Corps  
O.B. Osceola Sr., Department of the Army  
Russell Osceola Sr., Department of the Army  
Camille A. Santiago, Department of the Army  
Randy Santiago, Department of the Army  
Eddie Shore, Department of the Army  
Jack Smith Jr., Department of the Army  
Michael D. Tiger, Army National Guard  
Howard Tommie, Army National Guard  
Constance Williams, Department of the Army

## Seminole Veteran Fallen Soldiers

Roley C. Buck	Herman Osceola
Noah Billie	Jack Osceola Sr.
Billy Cypress	Roy Nash Osceola
Billy L. Cypress	Clifford Sanchez
Herbert Cypress	Fred Smith
Charlie S. Gopher	Jacob Storm
Henry J. Gopher	Clyde Tiger
Lester L. Gopher	Howard Tiger
Cecil Johns	James F. Tiger Sr.
Bert C. Johns	Joseph Quinn Tiger
Moses Jumper Sr.	Jackie Willie Jr.
Earl Nelson	



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# Education

B

## Sabré Billie Receives National Recognition, Artistic Award

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Staff from the Ahfachkee School held a special presentation for sixth grade student Sabré Billie on May 8.

Principal Walter Swan and then-Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola presented Billie with a certificate and engraved plaque from the Native American Student Artist Competition. She placed second in the drawing part of the artwork category.

Billie said she hopes to continue making her artwork and was pleased to receive the honor.

In addition to her awards, Billie received various art materials so she can stay focused on her artwork and create more of it. Rep. Osceola also presented Billie with a mini laptop for her to continue focusing on her education as well.

"Our students are bright, and with these bright people in place we can only go higher from here," Rep. Osceola said.

A group of Billie's peers, as well as her family members, mother, Sheila Bevenue, father, William Bevenue, grandmother, Judy Jim, brothers, Levi Billie and William Bevenue Jr., and sister, Trinity Williams, all attended the presentation.



Marisol Gonzalez  
(L-R) Cicero Osceola and Sabré Billie display her awards.

The competition was open to all American Indian and Alaska Native students, ranging from grades pre-kindergarten through 12. In addition to the art competition, there was also a writing competition. Competition organizers received a total of 604 entries from 30 states.

The theme of the Native American Student Artist Competition was "Tradition is my Life, Education is my Future," and Billie titled her piece, "Education Tree."

Her work, along with the other winning pieces of art, will tour the country starting on July 21. The exhibit will make its way from Washington, DC, where it will be displayed at the National Museum of the American Indian, then go on to various museums in states including Oklahoma, Washington, Arizona and California.

For students interested in entering the art or essay competition, guidelines, rules and instructions will be available in September on the website <http://kids.indianeducation.org>. Students can submit any type of artwork including paintings, drawings, photographs and digital media. Writers can only submit personal essays.



Rachel Buxton  
Miranda Dubois (Second from Left) receives the Dawn Marie Snow Fertitta memorial scholarship from (L-R) Indian River State College Advisor Janine Merriman, McKayla Snow and Indian River State College Provost Sam Smith.

## Dawn Marie Snow Fertitta Memorial Scholarship Awarded

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**OOKECHOBEE, Fla.** — The family of the late Dawn Marie Snow Fertitta attended Okeechobee High School's scholarship night, held at the school May 19, to honor her memory by presenting a graduating senior with a nursing school scholarship in her name.

Fertitta's daughter McKayla Snow, 12, awarded Miranda Dubois with the Dawn Marie Snow Fertitta Memorial Nursing Scholarship by presenting her with a beaded stethoscope. Dubois will attend Indian River State College in Okeechobee following high school.

"I plan to become a registered nurse to help pursue my dream of becoming an obstetrician," said Dubois.

The memorial scholarship was started in 2007 by Fertitta's father and stepmother, Elbert and Judy Snow of the Brighton community.

Fertitta was a licensed practical nurse studying to further her career by becoming a registered nurse when she passed away in a tragic car accident in 2003.

A bowling tournament in Fertitta's memory is held annually, helping to raise the money to make the scholarship possible.

"This scholarship is to help get a student started in the nursing field," said Elbert Snow.

## Brittany Smith Joins Honor Society

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**FT. PIERCE** — Brittany Smith was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society March 13 in a ceremony held at Indian River State College (IRSC) in Ft. Pierce.

Smith, the daughter of Roger and Diane Smith, received this prestigious academic title as a freshman at IRSC.

To be eligible for membership to the honor society, students must complete 12 hours of coursework that will be applied to an associate degree. Students must also maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

One of the benefits of being a member of Phi Theta Kappa is its focus on the Society's Hallmark of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship, which can help students succeed in what they desire to do post-graduation.

Smith, along with joining membership of Phi Theta Kappa, made the Dean's List for excelling academically.



Seminole Tribune Archive Photo  
Brittany Smith



Judy Weeks

The 2009 Ahfachkee High School graduating class is presented to the audience, (Back Row, L-R) Steven Hannahs, Alyssa Noah, Allen Hernandez, Randy Osceola, Herschel Frank, Bianca Fernandez, Principal Walt Swan, Demi Garza, Pastor Arlen Payne and Dawna Cypress, with Tribal Reps (Front Row, L-R) Trail Liaison William Osceola, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Immokalee Board of Directors Liaison Delores Jumper, Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar, Chairman Mitchell Cypress and BC Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., also on stage.

## Ahfachkee High Schoolers, 8th Graders Walk Across Graduation Stage

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — As the Ahfachkee high school and 8th grade graduates received their diplomas on June 4, they took a giant step up the educational ladder.

The joint commencement ceremony took place at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium at 5:30 p.m. before a capacity audience of family and friends who were eager to participate in the momentous occasion.

The Ahfachkee School reached a milestone as the largest graduating high school class in the school's history made its procession into the auditorium. The graduates, Alyssa Noah, Bianca Fernandez, Dawna Cypress, Herschel Frank, Demi Garza, Steven Hannahs, Allen Hernandez and Randy Osceola, wearing red caps and gowns with bands of patchwork in Tribal colors, all received their diplomas at the ceremony.

Following in their footsteps were the 8th grade graduates, Alexis Aguilar, Rickyjoe Alumbaugh, O'Shaa'Ne Cypress, Tyler Cypress, Taylor Fulton, Chad Motlow, Anthony Oliver, Bradley Osceola and Tequesta Tiger. These nine, wearing yellow gowns, also walked across the graduation stage.

Principal Walt Swan acknowledged the school staff and parents for their hard work and commitment in helping to bring the graduates to this point in their development.

"Creating responsible adults that strive to reach their potential is a 24 hour a day job and your dedication is commendable," Swan said. "When I came here last year, the enrollment of the school was slightly less than 200 students. This number has

rapidly increased and so have our goals. With your help, programs are being reorganized and standards elevated to meet the demands of the educational requirements for the future of the Seminole Tribe."

During the ceremony, the Class of 2009's valedictorian Alyssa Noah expressed her appreciation to the Seminole Tribe for allowing her to attend the Ahfachkee School and made assurances that she plans to further her education a manner that will benefit others.

Many members of the Tribal leadership were in attendance to accept Noah's words of gratitude, including Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

"History gives you roots and culture, but education provides opportunities for the present and ensures that we have a tomorrow," Chairman Cypress said. "We are hoping to invite the graduates to participate in a program that would introduce them to the mechanics of the Tribal government and encourage them to see the requirements of leadership. Their education and determination are our guarantee of the future."

Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., who presented the colors with Seminole Police Dept. Officer Bruce Hale during the commencement ceremony, also spoke to the graduates and encouraged them to keep pursuing their dreams.

"Now that you have made it this far, you have proven that you can go further," said Rep. Bowers. "Set goals and strive to achieve them. We are depending upon you."

□ Please see **AHFACHKEE** on page 3B



Judy Weeks

The 2009 Ahfachkee eighth grade graduating class, (Back Row, L-R) O'Shaa'ne Cypress, Pastor Arlen Payne, Taylor Fulton, Rickyjoe Alumbaugh, Anthony Oliver, Bradley Osceola, Alexis Aguilar and Tequesta Tiger along with Tribal and school representatives.

## Charter School Ends Year with Award Ceremony

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The students at Penayevt Emahakv ended the 2008-2009 school year with their fourth nine weeks award ceremonies, held June 2-3 in the breezeway of the Charter School, intended to honor the students' scholastic excellence.

"You've accomplished quite a bit this year," said Principal Russell Brown. Parents and teachers applauded the kindergarten through fourth graders on June 2 as students received awards for their accomplishments in their Creek, arts and crafts and Seminole history classes. Students were also recognized for their academic achievements.

"I know you have worked hard and I know your parents have worked hard with you," said Brown. "It's a team effort.

The Penayevt Emahakv graduates got their own special awards ceremony June

3. The school's fifth graders gathered in the breezeway for the last time as they received their awards.

"You're winding out your time with us," said Brown. "You have helped build the foundation for this quality facility."

Along with the regular honorable awards distributed, a special award was handed out to 17 recipients for outstanding academic achievement known as the President's Education Award. Students who received the prestigious award received a personal letter from President Barack Obama congratulating them on their commitment and dedication to education.

Following the fifth grade award presentation, attendees watched a slide show displaying memories shared during the students' time at the Charter School.



Rachel Buxton

□ Please see **AWARDS** on page 2B for a list of recipients

(L-R) Arts and crafts teacher Jenny Shore presents Michael Garcia with the Most Improved award.



## CHARTER SCHOOL



Cultural education teacher Nancy Shore looks at her fifth grade students' displays of Seminole craft creations.

## Charter School Students Display Crafts

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Pemayetv Emahakv opened its doors to parents May 29 for a day of pride as students showcased off their year's worth of hard work from their Creek language and arts and crafts classes.

Each parent was invited to attend their child's Creek language class where the student-made arts and crafts were on display in shadow boxes. Each grade level worked on different traditional Seminole arts and crafts throughout the year.

"They did a real good job," said Tribal citizen and cultural education teacher Nancy Shore.

The kindergartners began learning the art of beading. They started the year using big beads to make key chains and then gradually as the year went on started using smaller and smaller beads to make bracelets and necklaces.

First grade students also learned the basics of beading but worked on more challenging bracelet versions.

The second graders learned another Seminole traditional craft, patchwork. Students were able to pick their own design and colors as they created patchwork pillows.

The third grade students used smaller beads and more difficult bracelet and necklace designs known

as "daisy chains." Camryn Thomas was able to master her skill and even create matching earrings for her jewelry set.

Students in the fourth grade modernized the use of beading and created beaded covers for pens.

The graduating fifth graders proved they are learning their culture. The fifth grade students not only worked on beading but they also learned stitching. The students first learned the basics of stitching by making a picture frame and then from there advanced to stitching baskets.

"They can't believe they can do this," said Shore.

Shore said she learned her native arts and crafts skills from her great-grandmother. She explained how the students aren't learning the crafts and history at home anymore.

"They are teaching their parents how to do this," said Shore. "They're going to thank me one day."

Refreshments were served to the parent visitors as a video presentation played showing the students making their crafts in the classroom.

Arts and crafts classes were held once a week. Some students were so intrigued and eager to learn their culture that they would pop in a couple times a week if they had any free hours.

"It's important to learn this so we can teach it to our kids when we grow up, said fifth grader Jaron Johns."

## Pemayetv Emahakv Holds Annual Creek Spelling Bee

### Student Odessa King Captures First Place, Wins Trophy

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Four students vied for supremacy as they competed for the title in Pemayetv Emahakv's second annual Creek Spelling Bee held on May 18 in the breezeway of the Charter School.

Raeley Matthews, Ivess Baker, Odessa King and Tyra Baker fought it out, with King claiming first place and snagging the trophy.

Matthews, Ivess Baker, King and Tyra Baker all took their spot in their grade, levels 2-5, respectively, to secure their first place in the school Creek Spelling Bee.

Matthews, Ivess Baker and King made it to the second round with Matthews and King taking it to a third and then a fourth round.

Director of Cultural Education Lorene Gopher pronounced the words for Matthews and King to spell.

Cultural education teachers Jade Braswell, Ginger Jones and Nancy Shore helped as listeners keeping track of how the children spelled the words.

King had to spell two words correctly in a row to be named the winner. King's final word came down to *ehomv*, which translates to the English preposition "in front of."

"It is tough getting in front of a big crowd," said Principal Russell Brown. "But all the contestants did a very impressive job."



Ginger Jones (L) accepts her trophy for the first ever parents' Creek Spelling Bee.



(L-R) Odessa King receives her first place trophy from Assistant Cultural Education Director Shelly Walker.

Prior to the student Creek Spelling Bee, the Culture Dept. held a Teacher Creek Spelling Bee for the first time on May 4 and a Parent Creek Spelling Bee was held on May 5.

The teacher and parent spelling bees helped encourage students to practice their Creek language skills in preparation for the school wide Creek Spelling Bee.

Kindergarten teacher Melody Weber and fifth grade teacher Heather Dobbs were the only two teachers brave enough to test their Creek language skills in front of an audience. After a few brief rounds Dobbs took the title as the winner of the first ever Teacher Creek Spelling Bee.

In the parents' spelling bee four parents had the courage to stand up and participate as the children cheered them on. Michele Thomas, Laverne Thomas, Suraiya Smith and Ginger Jones gave it their best shot taking turns showing their knowledge of their native language. Jones took the title by correctly spelling the Creek word, *custake*, which means "egg."

## AWARDS

From page 1B

### Pemayetv Emahakv Award Recipients

#### Kindergarten

Effort: Jayton Baker, John Beck, Jagger Gaucin, Jason Webber, AJ Cypress, Mariah Billie, Alonnie Gore, Heith Lawrence, Ruby Osceola, Billy Bailey, Kyandra Harris. Citizenship: Ramone Baker, Aubee Billie, Kanyon Billie, Tayla Burns, Haylie Huff, Ryanna Osceola, Davin Carrillo, Shaela Garcia, Dathan Garcia, Kabe Jimmie, Alonnie Gore, Heith Lawrence.

Improvement: Hyatt Brugh, Destiny Elliott, Norman Osceola, Morgan Yates, Daven Buck, Justin Gopher, Kyandra Harris, Caylie Huff, Ruby Osceola, Davin Carrillo. 100% Club: Hyatt Brugh, John Beck, Destiny Elliott, Aubee Billie, Ramone Baker, Jagger Gaucin, Hunter Howard, Haylie Huff, Caylie Huff, Kyandra Harris, Daven Buck, Davin Carrillo, Ruby Osceola, Billy Bailey, Heith Lawrence, Mariah Billie, Alonnie Gore, Justin Gopher, Morgan Yates, Jayton Baker, Norman Osceola, AJ Cypress.

Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – Mariah Billie, Best Writing Skills – Daven Buck, Effort – Mariah Billie, Best Creek Speaker – Heith Lawrence; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Tayla Burns, Best Writing Skills – John Beck, Effort – Jayton Baker, Best Creek Speaker – Hyatt Brugh.

Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class: Most Improved – Ramone Baker, Craftsmanship – Caylie Huff, Effort – Jayton Baker, Best Creek Speaker – Aubee Billie. Citizenship Award for the Year: Aubee Billie – Mrs. Webber's Class, Caylie Huff – Mrs. Duncan's Class. 100 Book Challenge: John Beck – 1 Medalion, Aubee Billie – 1 Medalion, Destiny Elliott – 1 Medalion.

#### First Grade

Effort: Dante Thomas, Mallorie Thomas, Sage Motlow, Silas Madrigal, Malcolm Jones, Anyia Gore, Araya Youngblood, Tanner Shore, Nyah Davidson, Edward Gaudin, Marcie Osceola, Myron Billie, Katie Beck, Echo Billie, Ozzy Osceola, Jacee Jumper, Rubie Osceola. Citizenship: Anyia Gore, Dante Thomas, Mallorie Thomas, Wayne Bennett, Sage Motlow, Malcolm Jones, Araya Youngblood, Tucker Johns, Myron Billie, Kamani Smith, Alexis Gore, Keira French, Madsyn Osceola, Alyssa Gonzalez, Nyah Davidson, Marcie Osceola, Caillou Smith, Lila Bennett, Echo Billie, Jaylen Baker, Ozzy Osceola, Bevin Billie, Hunter Howard.

Improvement: Jabbah Arnold, Tucker Johns, Heith Lawrence, Tanner Shore, Donovan Harris, Redneat Billie, Caillou Smith, Robert Harris, Aleah Turtle, Hunter Howard, Kai Osceola. Citizenship Award (3.0-3.4 GPA): Tucker Johns, Myron Billie, Keira French, Madsyn Osceola, Marcie Osceola, Ozzy Osceola, Jacee Jumper, Rubie Osceola. Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA): Malcolm Jones, Silas Madrigal, Dante Thomas, Mallorie Thomas, Nyah Davidson, Edward Gaudin, Echo Billie.

Gold Award (4.0 GPA): Anyia Gore, Kamani Smith, Katie Beck.

Straight A's All Year: Katie Beck, Anyia Gore, Kamani Smith.

100 Book Challenge: Echo Billie – 1 Medalion, Edward Gaudin – 1 Medalion, Hunter Howard – 1 Medalion. Citizenship Award for the Year: Sage Motlow – Mrs. Davis' Class, Myron Billie for the Ringstaff's Class, Echo Billie – Mrs. Hudson's Class.

Student Council Representative: Mallorie Thomas. Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – Madsyn Osceola, Best Writing Skills – Keira French, Effort – Kamani Smith, Best Creek Speaker – Donovan Harris; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Tanner Shore, Best Writing Skills – Rubie Osceola, Effort: Jabbah Arnold, Best Creek Speaker – Jacee Jumper.

Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class: Most Improved – Jabbah Arnold, Craftsmanship – Rubie Osceola, Effort – Edward Gaudin, Best Creek Speaker – Echo Billie. History Class: Jade Braswell's Class: Most Improved – Redheart Billie, Araya Youngblood, Aleah Turtle, Effort – Kamani Smith, Tucker Johns, Kai Osceola, Achievement – Myron Billie, Silas Madrigal, Echo Billie.

#### Second Grade

Effort: Blake Baker, Lance Howardm, Oscar Yates, Lucas Osceola, Raeley Matthews, Billy Yates, Satie Rie, Tyler Howard, Gage Riddle, Drake Lawrence. Citizenship: Keely Billie, Aleina Micco, Kano Puente, Krysta Burton, Alyke Baker, Alicia Fudge, Aidan Tommie. Improvement: Andrew Fish, Ridge Bailey, Mariah Smith, Kyle Palmisano, Luzana Venzor, Alyke Baker, Jarrett Bert. Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA): Andrew Fish, Krysta Burton, Lance Howard.

Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA): Aleina Micco, Keely Billie, Satie Rie, Gage Riddle, Aidan Tommie. Gold Award (4.0 GPA): Kano Puente, Oscar Yates, Raeley Matthews.

Straight A's All Year: Kano Puente, Raeley Matthews. Citizenship Award for the Year: Alyke Baker – Mrs. Ball's Class, Aleina Micco – Mrs. Moss's Class. Student Council Representative: Raeley Matthews. Perfect Attendance: Kano Puente, Krysta Burton, Lance Howard.

Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – Alyke Baker, Best Writing Skills – Alicia Fudge, Effort – Gage Riddle, Best Creek Speaker– Aleina Tommie; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Ridge Bailey, Best Creek Skills – Mariah Billie, Effort – Ridge Bailey, Best Creek Speaker – Blake Baker.

Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class: Most Improved – Ridge Bailey, Craftsmanship – Aleina Micco, Effort – Oscar Yates, Best Creek Speaker – Gage Riddle. History Class: Jade Braswell's Class: Most Improved – Oscar Yates, Billy Yates, Effort – Keely Billie, Drake Lawrence, Achievement – Kano Puente, Aidan Tommie.

#### Third Grade

Effort: Logan Ortiz, Bly Davidson, Cyrus Smedley, Michael Girtman, Richard Harris, Joseph Osceola, Camryn Thomas, Layne Thomas, Dyanmi Nelson, Cheyenne Fish, Dalton Girtman, Brian Bishop.

Citizenship: Anyiana Tommie, Elijah Billie, Reed Gopher, Sunni Bearden, Cady Osceola, Ivess Baker, Easton Moss, Jalynn Jones, Chloe Chalfant, Rylee Smith, Morgan King, Brady Rhodes.

Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA): Michael Girtman, Ivess Baker, Bly Davidson, Jalynn Jones, Cheyenne Fish, Marquis Fudge, Isaac Osceola, Dalton Girtman.

Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA): Easton Moss, Brian Bishop, Chloe Chalfant, Morgan King, Joseph Osceola.

Gold Award (4.0 GPA): Anyiana Tommie, Camryn Thomas, Layne Thomas, Dyanmi Nelson, Rudy Juarez, Brady Rhodes.

Straight A's All Year: Anyiana Tommie. Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – Chloe Chalfant, Best Writing Skills – Camryn Thomas, Effort – Rudy Juarez, Best Creek Speaker – Dyanmi Nelson; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Bly Davidson, Best Writing Skills – Elijah Billie, Effort – Logan Ortiz, Best

Creek Speaker – Cyrus Smedley. Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class: Most Improved – Cheyenne Fish, Craftsmanship – Camryn Thomas, Effort – Rylee Smith, Best Creek Speaker – Anyana Tommie. History Class: Jade Braswell's Class: Most Improved – Logan Ortiz, Cheyenne Fish, Effort – Ivess Baker, Brian Bishop, Achievement – Anyana Tommie, Rudy Juarez. Student Council Representative: Anyana Tommie. Citizenship Award for the Year: Elijah Billie – Mrs. Clements' Class, Camryn Thomas – Mrs. Pryor's Class.

#### Fourth Grade

Effort: Courtney Gore, Lanie Sedatol, Samuel Osceola, Sean Osceola, Rylee Osceola, Trevor Thomas, Andrew Dobbs.

Citizenship: Courtney Gore, Kelton Smedley, Bethany Billie, Diamond Shore, Rayne Eagle, Robert Fudge, Jermaine Bennett, Ruben Burgess.

Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA): Martina Herrera, Jermaine Bennett, Ruben Burgess, Robert Fudge, Diamond Shore, Rayne Eagle.

Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA): Drayton Billie, Demetrius Clark, Erik Garcia, Odessa King, Joshua Madrigal, Crysten Smith, Bethany Billie, Sean Osceola.

Gold Award (4.0 GPA): Jadie Pente, Bailey Tadders, Trevor Thomas, Andrew Dobbs, Rylee Osceola.

Straight A's All Year: Jadie Pente.

Student Council Representative: Joshua Madrigal. 100 Book Challenge: Joshua Madrigal – 1 Medalion.

Perfect Attendance: Jadie Pente.

Citizenship Award for the Year: Diamond Shore – Mrs. Tedder's Class, Crysten Smith – Mrs. Williams' Class. Safety Patrols: Sean Osceola, Diamond Shore, Trevor Thomas, Erik Garcia, Jadie Pente.

Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – Martina Herrera, Best Writing Skills – Odessa King, Effort – Crysten Smith, Best Creek Speaker – Jadie Pente; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Samuel Osceola, Best Writing Skills – Bethany Billie, Effort – Lanie Sedatol, Best Creek Speaker – Andrew Dobbs.

Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class: Most Improved – Trevor Thomas, Craftsmanship – Martina Herrera, Effort – Rayne Eagle, Best Creek Speaker – Erik Garcia.

History Class: Jade Braswell's Class: Most Improved – Rayne Eagle, Drayton Billie, Effort – Ruben Burgess, Jadie Pente, Achievement – Trevor Thomas, Odessa King.

#### Fifth Grade

Effort: Allison Gopher, Chastity Harmon, Jayce Smith, Richard Smith, Yopakiyo Osceola, Dezmor Shore. Citizenship: Imilakiyo Osceola, Joshua Greenbaum, Zachary Hudson, Kailin Brown.

Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA): Tyra Baker, Thomas Bearden, Elizabeth Johns, Keyana Nelson, Donovan Osceola, Rayven Smith, Michael Garcia, Kalgary Johns, Royce Osceola, Trista Osceola.

Silver Award (3.5-3.9 GPA): Rumor Juarez, Tamea Allen, Boyd Brown, Harley Johns, Brydgett Koonitz, Lahna Sedatol, Kailin Brown.

Gold Award (4.0 GPA): Joshua Greenbaum, Zachary Hudson, Kailin Brown, Jaron Johns, Zeke Matthews, Cheyenne Nunez, Melany Williams.

Straight A's All Year: Zachary Hudson, Kailin Brown, Cheyenne Nunez, Melany Williams.

Student Council Representatives: Imilakiyo Osceola, Zachary Hudson.

100 Book Challenge: Joshua Greenbaum – 1 Medalion, Brydgett Koonitz – 1 Medalion.

Perfect Attendance: Jaron Johns, Keyana Nelson. Citizenship Award for the Year: Elizabeth Johns – Mrs. Dobbs' Class, Michael Garcia – Mrs. Finney's Class.

Safety Patrols: Michael Garcia, Kailin Brown, Tamea Allen, Melany Williams.

President's Education Award (3.0-3.4 GPA): Tamea Allen, Allison Gopher, Elizabeth Johns, Harley Johns, Keyana Nelson, Trista Osceola, Taylor Holata; (3.5-4.0 GPA): Boyd Brown, Joshua Greenbaum, Jaron Johns, Zeke Matthews, Cheyenne Nunez, Donovan Osceola, Rumor Juarez, Melany Williams, Donovan Brown, Zachary Hudson.

Creek Class: Lorene Gopher's Class: Most Improved – Allison Gopher, Best Writing Skills – Zachary Hudson, Effort – Rumor Juarez, Best Creek Speaker – Tyra Baker; Jenny Shore's Class: Most Improved – Royce Osceola, Best Writing Skills – Donovan Osceola, Effort – Taylor Holata, Best Creek Speaker – Lahna Sedatol.

Arts and Crafts Class: Nancy Shore's Class: Most Improved – Michael Garcia, Craftsmanship – Zeke Matthews, Effort – Dezmor Shore, Best Creek Speaker – Kalgary Johns. History Class: Jade Braswell's Class: Most Improved – Cheyenne Nunez, Rayven Smith, Effort – Dezmor Shore, Zachary Hudson, Achievement – Jaron Johns, Taylor Holata.



The fifth grade students hold their President's Education Awards.

Rachel Buxton



# AHFACHKEE SCHOOL



Judy Weeks

Tribal leaders and school staff, (L-R) BC Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., Ahfachkee Principal Walt Swan, Pastor Arlen Payne, Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner, Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar and School Coordinator Eileen Hagar, present the kindergarten Class of 2009 to the audience.

## Ahfachkee Kindergartners Honored at School's Graduation Ceremony

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Family and friends gathered in the cafeteria at the Ahfachkee School on June 3 to witness the graduation of the kindergarten Class of 2009.

Wearing black caps and Seminole patchwork trimmed gowns, Carlos Bermudez, Hermione Calderon, Valhollly Frank, Ramona Jimmie, Hehchoo-Ye Jumper, Adrian Mendoza, Liberty Robbins, Willie Smith, Amaya Solano, Spencer Aguilar, Kobe Billie, Katrina Colombo, Kamari Ivey, Cnaan Jumper, Leo Osceola-Onco, Brandi Osceola and Camden Rhymes, received their diplomas at the ceremony.

Smiles and chuckles accompanied a video presentation that introduced the students and made it possible to visit them in their classrooms and schoolyard during the past year. Individually, the children talked about their favorite things and what they plan to do when they become adults.

Following the Seminole Pledge and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, Principal Walt Swan acknowledged the kindergarten teachers, Bernadette Schyvinch and Joey Hernandez, and their instructional aides, Tara McGee and Michelle Walker.

"I join these teachers in thanking you, as parents

and guardians, for sharing your most precious gift with us," Swan said. "These youngsters are in their formative years and it is our goal to help them develop the skills necessary to experience a successful educational career. The Seminole Tribe leads the way."

In conclusion, Swan discussed the growth and development of the programs for the coming school year as the school evolves to meet the demands of the next generation.

Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. also addressed the graduates and attendees during the ceremony.

"I see before me the bright, shining faces that represent our future. It is our job, as parents and leaders, to help them set high standards and then help them to reach their goals," Rep. Bowers said. "They will become what we make of them. Today, they depend on us; tomorrow we will depend on them."

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar also spoke at the Ahfachkee School's kindergarten graduation.

"Immokalee is grateful that Ahfachkee has opened its doors to our children," said Liaison Aguilar. "It is a long day for our students and their parents because of the distance they must travel, but it is a worthwhile road for them to follow."

She directed her next remarks to the graduates. "Today you become first graders and it is a long ladder that you must climb," Liaison Aguilar said. "Study and enjoy your school years because there is so much for you to learn. No one knows what tomorrow will bring, but one thing is certain: no one can take your education away from you and it is your key to survival."

School Coordinator Eileen Hagar also spoke to the graduates on their special day.

"I taught some of your parents and now you have come to acquire the education that will be necessary for you to achieve your goals, and eventually, produce another generation of leaders," she said. "Each of you is a representative of the Seminole Tribe. Through education, you can insure its future and build a better tomorrow."

As commencement speaker, Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner talked about the importance of education for everyone, not just the Seminole Tribe.

"As kindergartners, you feel that everyone is watching you and you are right," said Commissioner Turner. "All eyes are on you because you are important to everyone in this room, your leaders and your country. Education provides the opportunity for everyone to achieve their goals, but you must take advantage of that opportunity in order for it to happen."



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Principal Walt Swan congratulates kindergarten grad Hehchoo-Ye Jumper.

## AHFACHKEE

From page 1B

During his commencement address, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. encouraged and inspired his audience. Having graduated from McArthur High School and the University of Miami, he is an inductee of both the Broward County and Seminole Tribe Sports Halls of Fame. Rep. Osceola is also a sports coach and strong advocate of education.

"Growing is mandatory, but growing up is optional," began Rep. Osceola. "As eighth graders, you have four more years to prepare, and as high school graduates, I say that your time has arrived."

"Our [Tribal] Council's goal is to provide for every member of the Tribe," he continued. "A long time ago that meant hunt, plant, fish and protect. Today, we call that management of commodities and Native Americans were among the first to understand this principle."

Rep. Osceola added that the Tribe, owning businesses in 50 countries, can now provide limitless opportunities to Tribal citizens, both in the U.S. and abroad. "Today you receive the key to a door that some people have to bang on very hard and there is no guarantee that it will open for them," Rep. Osceola said. "We are here to help you choose a vocation, go to college and earn your place on the road to success."

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar also reiterated the importance of getting an education. "Fifty years ago, we thought it was enough to learn to read, write and speak English, so I quit school in the eighth grade," said Liaison Aguilar. "That was a big mistake that I do not want you to make. I realized my error and went back to get my GED."

"You are role models for the next generation," she went on to say. "Continue your education and then come back to us. We will be waiting for you, because some day we will need you to climb into our shoes of leadership and carry us forward."

Trail Liaison William Osceola echoed Liaison Aguilar's remarks.

"With education, the world will become your oyster and you will be a pearl with unlimited value to yourselves and your people," Liaison Osceola said.

Superintendent of Hendry County Schools Rick Murphy also made a guest appearance in recognition of the Seminole Tribe's commitment toward higher educational standards and applauded the graduates for their achievements.



Judy Weeks

Valdictorian Alyssa Noah addresses her classmates.

### Class of 2009 Looks to the Future

Valdictorian Alyssa Noah plans to attend the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale while developing a career in photography.

Salutatorian Bianca Fernandez is applying to the University of Miami to specialize in sports medicine. Dawna Cypress considers her diploma a beginning and although she has not selected a vocation, she is checking into her SAT Test and exploring possibilities.

Herschel Frank would like to attend a vocational school.

Demí Garza enjoys math and plans to study for a degree in accounting and then seek a position with the Tribe. In addition, she has always had a passion for the culinary arts and is entertaining a back up plan for schooling to become a pastry chef.

Steven Hannahs realizes the need to continue his education, but has not yet chosen what course he will take for the future.

Allen Hernandez plans to apply to Florida State University and take basic academic courses while he chooses a major.

Randy Osceola will be attending a vocational school to further his knowledge of mechanics and looks forward to opening his own business.

## Ahfachkee Students Awarded at Yearend Ceremony

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Recognizing the students' accomplishments for the year of 2008-2009, the staff of the Ahfachkee School held its Year End Awards Ceremony on June 4 in the cafeteria.

The pre-kindergarten through 5th graders attended the first assembly at 9 a.m., and the 6th grade through high school assembly followed.

Principal Walt Swan opened the presentation with the Seminole Warrior chant and then called for a round of applause for the teachers and aides who had guided the students throughout the year.

Providing a brief summary of the year's activities and accomplishments, Swan congratulated the students on a job well done. While addressing the high school, he discussed the new curriculum for the fall session, addition of elective courses and individual subjects for each teacher.

The teachers and their aides took turns at the podium and called their students forward to receive awards based on grade averages, attendance and special projects.

Media Aide Margarita Lugo announced the final tally of \$4,000 that had been earned through the book fair to purchase learning materials and books for the media center. She then acknowledged the students in the Accelerated Reading Program and commended Richard Billie for earning the most points for the grading period in the lower classes.

Lugo presented certificates to the upper class' high achievers who participated in the "Reaching Your Goals" program. John Dell McInturf accumulated 142 points for the

whole year and received a gift certificate from Barnes & Noble® book store.

Book bags and T-shirts were distributed by Allison McCulloch of the Read Right Program to her outstanding students of the year.

Justin Roff received a 4.0 grade point average for the fourth quarter and had maintained this distinction throughout the year, resulting in his being named Ahfachkee Scholar of the Year. He also was commended for his participation in the Enrichment Awards Program.

Graysun Billie achieved a Perfect Attendance Award for the entire school year.

Officer David Logan of the Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. presented certificates to each of the students who successfully participated in the Fire Prevention Program, which was taught throughout the entire school.



Judy Weeks

Principal Walt Swan presents Jack Aguilar with an Ahfachkee Achievement Certificate.



Judy Weeks

The second graders assemble in the front of the auditorium after receiving their Fire Prevention Certificates.

## Ahfachkee School Award Recipients

### Ahfachkee Scholar

Alexis Aguilar, Spencer Aguilar, Cameron Alexander, Shana Balentine, Carlee Billie, Kobe Billie, Marley Billie-Herrera, Elise Brown, Alyssa Burnett-Osceola, Hermione Calderon, Katrina Colombo, Elijah Cook, Evan Cypress, Tauni Cypress, Brandon Frank, Valhollly Frank, Gabriel Hendrickson-Porter, Kamari Ivey, Cnaan Jumper, Hehchoo-Ye Jumper, Leo Osceola-Onco, Brandi Osceola, Charlie Osceola, Liberty Robbins, Ezekiel Roberts, Camden Rhymes, Amaya Solano, Alena Stockton.

### Ahfachkee Honor

Cassandra Alexander, Nicholas Andrews, Carlise Bermudez, Carlos Bermudez, Athena Bert, Caleb Billie, Caniah Billie, Ivan Billie, Richard Billie, Sontino Billie, Eliza Billie, Elyanna Billie, Jon Ross Billie, Leanna Billie, Sabre Billie, Thomlynn Billie, Jose Cisneros, Jacob Cotton, Mya Cypress, Tai Cypress, Tyler Cypress, Elyse Frank, Esyra Frank, Steven Frank, Blusky Friday, Darius Friday, Leslie Gopher, Chloe Hendrickson, Katrina Huggins, Darron Jim, Dalton Koenes, Dayra Koenes, Natalia Martinez, Clayton Millicoe, Janessa Jones, John Dell McInturf, Anthony Oliver, Bradley Osceola, Chaska Osceola, Tana Bear-Osceola, Brenden Otero, Taylor Pratt, John Robbins, Mazzy Robbins, Nehemiah Roberts, Ignacia Rodriguez, Carlos Romero, Derrick Tager, Chynna Villarreal, Annabelle WhiteShield.

### Ahfachkee Achievement

Jonah Alvarado, Kyle Alvarado, Edward Aguilar, Ethan Aguilar, Jack Aguilar, Charles Alexander, Christopher Alexander, Chelsey Alvarado, Roderick Bert, Cartaya Billie, Eliza Billie, Elyanna Billie, Jon Ross Billie, Leanna Billie, Sabre Billie, Thomlynn Billie, Jose Cisneros, Jacob Cotton, Mya Cypress, Tai Cypress, Tyler Cypress, Elyse Frank, Esyra Frank, Steven Frank, Blusky Friday, Darius Friday, Leslie Gopher, Chloe Hendrickson, Katrina Huggins, Darron Jim, Dalton Koenes, Dayra Koenes, Natalia Martinez, Clayton Millicoe, Janessa Jones, John Dell McInturf, Anthony Oliver, Bradley Osceola, Chaska Osceola, Tana Bear-Osceola, Brenden Otero, Taylor Pratt, John Robbins, Mazzy Robbins, Nehemiah Roberts, Ignacia Rodriguez, Carlos Romero, Derrick Tager, Chynna Villarreal, Annabelle WhiteShield.

### Ahfachkee Participation

Keaton Billie, Precious Jimmie, Angelie Melton, Dacia Osceola, Dontae Russell, Anthony Wells.

### Perfect Attendance

Graysun Billie (All Year), Jathaniel Brooks, Elise Brown, Darius Friday, Tash-Sho-Tah-Che Jumper, Katesa Kirkland, Sierra Kirkland, Emily Ortiz, Evanne Pratt.

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# Four From Immokalee Community Graduate High School

**BY JUDY WEEKS**  
**Freelance Reporter**

Four students from the Immokalee community graduated from high school on the evening of May 29 at two separate locations.

Bonnie Davis, Brittany Yzaguirre and Edward Yzaguirre participated in the LaBelle High School Commencement ceremonies that took place at 8 p.m. in the school's

for the occasion.

Hendry County Superintendent of Schools Rick Murphy talked about the importance of a continuing education.

"Education has always been a door to success and it more important than ever that you set goals of achievement that will benefit you, your families and your communities," he said. "Current economic conditions throughout our country have magnified the need for you to pursue viable careers that will help you meet your responsibilities and prepare you for leadership roles."

Class Valedictorian Bryan Hobson Crockett and Salutatorian Chelsea Anne Ramos both made presentations after a musical performance of the song "The Greatest Love of All" by their classmate Julissa Mobley.

Principal Kelly then made the presentation of diplomas and Assistant Superintendent of Schools Scott Cooper certified the LaBelle High School Class of 2009.

Hortencia Yzaguirre accompanied more than 300 classmates, who participated in the 2009 graduation from Immokalee High School. Wearing red caps and gowns with white accents the scholars were presented with their diplomas before an audience of ap-

proximately 800 family members and friends, who filled the auditorium to capacity.

As is the custom at Immokalee High School, members of the graduating class conducted the entire ceremony from the invocation, ROTC Color Guard, National Anthem and commencement addresses to special entertainment.

Bonnie Davis plans to enroll in basic introductory college



**(L-R) Siblings Edward and Brittany Yzaguirre at the graduation ceremony.**

sports stadium. Graduating from Immokalee High School, Hortencia Yzaguirre joined her classmates at the Harborside Convention Auditorium in Fort Myers.

Two hundred and thirty-nine graduates filed onto the field during the procession while the LaBelle High School Band played "Pomp and Circumstance" following a medley of popular songs. Their caps and gowns reflected the school colors, with the girls wearing white and the boys wearing red.

Principal Lucinda Kelley made welcoming remarks following the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. She then turned the proceedings over to various members of the student body, who represented the graduating class. Gregory Zimmerman offered the Invocation and Class President Taylor Sawatzky and class representative Mike Reed alternated as emcee and introduced the speakers



**(L-R) Dad, Kenny Joe Davis Sr., with daughter, Bonnie Faye.**



**Class of 2009 graduate Hortencia Yzaguirre.**

courses in Tampa before determining her major. She indicated that a degree in accounting or administration is a strong possibility.

Edward Luis Yzaguirre would like a career in mechanics, but realizes that it is important to understand all facets of operating a business. He said taking business administrative courses at Edison Community College will broaden his horizons.

Brittany Yzaguirre has always had a fascination with cosmetology. Her future includes study of hair, nails, skin and makeup. She is currently investigating schools in the Fort Myers area and would like to some day operate her own salon.

Hortencia Yzaguirre is looking forward to enhancing her sewing and cultural skills under the guidance of her grandmother, Ruth Osceola, and will be considering part time employment in her community.



**From Prince P.J. Martinez wears his crown at the prom.**



**Alicia Jimmie may have trouble walking in high heels, but is quite comfortable crawling across the floor.**

## Preschoolers Attend First Prom

**BY JUDY WEEKS**  
**Freelance Reporter**

**IMMOKALEE** — Cascades of pistol fireworks and glittering stars transformed the Immokalee Gym into a Walt Disney World® wonderland for the Immokalee Preschool Prom, held on the evening of May 29.

Event organizers created an elegant ballroom with skirted chairs, a colorful assortment of bows and Disney® character centerpieces. Songs from Disney® musicals, Broadway show tunes and preschool favorites enveloped the room, which took on a fantasy-land atmosphere with balloon columns reaching the top of the building.

Ball gowns, princess costumes, party dresses, tiaras and high heeled shoes adorned the young ladies. Suits, tuxedos, Seminole vests, ties and patent leather dress shoes made gentlemen out of the boys.

Clothes may have transformed their outward appearance, but the preschoolers were still the same rowdy little playmates, who enjoyed fighting over a ball, rolling on the floor, jumping in a pool filled with balloons or knocking over bowling pins.

Quickly running to join their friends in the play area, they screamed and laughed in delight while playing little games and sorting through their party bags. Laughing and singing they danced around the ballroom floor. A balloon artist created a myriad of creatures for their amusement.

Following a kid friendly buffet, Denise Gonzales was pronounced princess for the evening and P.J. Martinez was crowned as prince. Climbing onto their thrones, they were surrounded by their Ladies in Waiting and Gentlemen of the Court.

Based on their personalities, the preschool teachers distributed superlative awards. Award recipients were: Best Smile: P.J. Martinez; Loudest: Ewanteke Roberts; "Mr. I Didn't Do It": Elijah Marrero; Most

Artistic: Amara Martinez; Friendliest: Jaliyah Arteaga; Shiest: Kenna Martinez; Most Likely to Succeed: Angelo Colon Jr.; Male Model: Ty Martinez; Female Model: Denise Gonzales; Future Mary Kay® Rep.: Jaylee Jimmie; Most Active Imagination: Brandon Posada; Multiple Personalities: Shayna Marrero.



**(L-R) Princess Denise Gonzales dances with Tito Sanchez.**

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2009 GRADUATIONS



The Class of 2009 Hollywood Preschool graduates on stage at the ceremony, held in the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium.

Community Members Celebrate Preschoolers' Graduation Milestone

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Proud parents gathered at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium on May 21 to show their support for the future leaders of the community at the Seminole Preschool graduation.

Close to 50 preschoolers graduated from all the reservations, with 27 coming from the Hollywood, Immokalee, and Big Cypress communities. Brighton celebrated 21 graduates in a separate ceremony.

"It was exciting and I am so happy she is growing up and finally going to a real school now," said parent Arnold Pichardo of daughter Babi Pichardo.

Preschool Director Leona Tommie-Williams explained the importance of having graduation ceremonies.

"The kids enjoy this because they are learning something, especially about their language and culture," Tommie-Williams explained. "They also like to do this for their parents and the elders in their community."

The theme for the event was community workers.

"The idea was behind getting them more familiar with different professions," Hollywood Preschool President Alex Tommie said. "All year round we stay busy but we start the process every year of preparing right after Christmas."

"We always try to bring something different and



Liquita (L) and Moses "Biggs" Jumper Jr. (R) with their granddaughter, Madison (C), at her graduation.

fresh because we have different parents each year," she added.

In addition to the graduation ceremony, the day included performances of the song "The Wheels on the Bus," the story of "The Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe," and the skit "The 10 Months of Preschool."

"I think [the preschool staff] continues to do an awesome job. I enjoy watching them speak and learn," said parent Carlos Diaz, father of Leanne, his sixth child to go through the Preschool Program. "They are learning and are being taught how to be proud of their heritage."



The graduates perform "The Wheels on the Bus" during the ceremony on May 21.

2009 Hollywood Preschool Graduates

Jalayah Artega  
Griffin Billie  
Tony Billie Jr.  
Lazzlow Billie  
Akira Cabral  
Ashlee Cypress  
Gavin Cypress  
Javian Cypress  
Jaylee Cypress

Leanne Diaz  
Anthony Doctor Jr.  
Lillian Doctor  
Jahniyah Henry  
Madison Jumper  
Arianna Osceola  
Charles Osceola  
Keith Osceola  
Makayla Petrillo

Babi Osceola Pichardo  
Dylan Robbins  
Caidence Smith  
Ja'Kalee Chupco Stewart  
Raymond Stewart III  
Kassim Stockton Jr.  
Maria Villarreal  
Jalee Wilcox  
Trace Wilcox

Stephanie Hall Graduates High School

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

DENHAM SPRINGS, La. — Tribal citizen and recent high school graduate Stephanie Hall has a story that although yet to be completed, is inspirational nonetheless.

Her mother, Cynthia Osceola, father, Jeremiah Hall, and other family and friends were on hand to support the valedictorian at her graduation ceremony on May 14 from Community Christian Academy, a private, coed Pentecost school in Louisiana.

"She is making the right choices and has a really good head on her shoulders; a lot of kids nowadays do not," said Osceola. "She has been through a lot of trials and knows there are two choices in life: the wrong road and the right."

Hall, 19, finished with honors and a 3.8 GPA at the school, which serves 107 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12.

She said she plans to attend Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga. Beginning in August. Her studies will include political science, foreign relations and foreign language studies with an emphasis on Latin America. She also said she wants to go to medical school someday. She visited the independent national liberal arts college for women last year and said it will provide her with support.

"I wanted a close knit community where I could feel home," Hall said.

The choice of drugs and alcohol nearly ruined her future. Her long and dark path of wrong choices began at the age of 12. At one time she said she went through two high schools in one semester, was arrested for burglary and at her peak experimented with several drugs.

"Nobody wakes up one day and says 'I want to be a drug addict,'" she recalled. A lot of things caused it over time. I hated myself and put myself in situations I never thought I would. I often just did what I saw."

Before it was too late, and as she approached rock bottom, Hall said she decided to turn her life around and has not looked back since.

"If I had stayed on the Rez where some of the drugs were and where some of my friends could get them for me, I would not have made it," Hall explained. "I was going crazy and realized that I did not want to live like that anymore."

Although she said there were relapses along the way, with the help of her father as well as friends she turned the corner. She has been clean and sober for the last four years.

"My loneliness pushed me to want something different," she admitted. "One day in a moment of clarity I realized that if I did not do something, I was going to die."

That awakening has brought her to a level of independence her mother admires and respects.

"She has a very strong mind and she is using it," her mother pointed out. "She has made up her mind and she just does what she needs to do."

For the middle child of six, it is on and upward now. Her faith, family and friends help guide her.

"God is my strength and the positive people that are in my life are the biggest blessing I could have," Hall said. "A lot of prayers from my parents and the community have helped me out."



Stephanie Hall

Three From Brighton Community Graduate High School

Allyson Billie, Damen Bert, Emily Cortez Receive Diplomas

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Three Brighton Tribal youth graduated from Okeechobee High School June 4 during a commencement ceremony held at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.

The graduating seniors are Allyson Billie, Damen Bert and Emily Cortez.

Allyson Billie

Allyson Billie, 18, is the daughter of Rebecca Billie of the Hollywood community, and Felix Rodz, and the granddaughter of Sally Billie of Hollywood.

Billie said the most exciting thing about graduating is the fact that she is finished with high school.



Allyson Billie

"I just wanted to get through," Billie said.

Billie plans to further her education in the future and study psychology.

"For now I'm going to travel this summer with my father," she said.

Damen Bert

Damen Bert, 19, is the son of Reese and Angie Bert of the Brighton community.

While in high school Bert was an avid bowler and member of a bowling league.

After high school Bert will be participating in the Tribal Adult Vocational Program on the Brighton Reservation. He said hopes to gain some work experience and then attend junior college.

"I'm very proud of him," said Bert's mother, Angie. "He's my second one to graduate but it hasn't gotten any easier."

Emily Cortez

Emily Cortez is the daughter of Jose Cortez and Rinella Billie.

Cortez said she enjoyed her high school years by working hard and spending time with friends. She will remain close to home to further her education by attending Indian River State College in Okeechobee.



Damen Bert

"I'm very, very proud," said Cortez's father, Jose. "Words can't even explain it."

Cortez is still undecided on what she will study in college but thinks she might want to enter the legal field one day.



Emily Cortez

Tampa's Kyle Henry Graduates

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA  
Staff Reporter



Kyle Henry

TAMPA — Kyle Henry graduated from Armwood High School in Seffner, Fla. on June 2 in a ceremony that took place at the nearby USF Sun Dome in Tampa.

The 17-year-old son of Tampa Liaison Richard Henry and mom, Colleen, became the fourth and youngest of his siblings to graduate.

"I was very proud of him," Colleen Henry said.

She had some words of wisdom to share with her son including reminding him to "stay busy and always learn."

Kyle plans to work as a recreation aide for the Tampa Recreation Dept. during the summer months and would like to pursue a career in mechanics after taking some time off.

Elliott Frank Completes GED Program

SUBMITTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPT.

HOLLYWOOD — Elliott Frank has had to face a tough academic challenge, but his determination and perseverance helped him overcome it and achieve a great academic milestone by earning his General Equivalency Diploma (GED) on Feb. 2.

Frank wasn't alone in his journey though. He had a lot of his support from his parents and other family members. When asked what difficulties he had while working toward his GED, Frank admitted, "Math was challenging."

His future plans include a possible trip to Spain, where he will study the art of the Flamenco guitar.



(L-R) Grandmother, Dorothy Tucker, with high school graduate Elliott Frank.



# 2009 GRADUATIONS

## Tribal Citizen Graduates in New Mexico

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

NAVAJO, N.M. — Tribal citizen and high school graduate Jerilyn Tossie, the daughter of Amos and Alfreda Billie, has family support, friends and an education she is proud of.

Tossie, 18, graduated from Navajo Pine High School on May 20. She finished with a 3.0 GPA and graduated along with her class of 37 other students.

"I am so proud of her that she has finally graduated," her mom, Alfreda Billie, said. "She has a good attitude and also wants to keep going to school."

Although born in Fort Myers, Fla., this sibling of five grew up on a Navajo Indian Reservation with her aunt and uncle, James and Rosie Tossie.

"In the rural area I lived, I enjoyed the peace-futility and freedom," Tossie said. "You could do anything."

Tossie's mother, Alfreda Billie, said it was a very difficult decision to accept early on in allowing her daughter to live in another state with other family members because of difficulties at home. It has



(L-R) Dad, Amos Billie, with daughter, Jerilyn Tossie.

all worked out positively, however.

"At first I was so attached to her," Billie admitted. "When she would come back to visit I tried to help her to stay. I realized though that it was wrong."

Tossie said she began visiting her Big Cypress family for the Christmas holidays and during summer vacations at about 6 years old.

"Going back and forth and traveling to both places was hard," Tossie said.

Now back in the Big Cypress area for about a month, Tossie said she enjoys the variety in activities she has been exposed to so far.

"It has been nice to get to know her because I missed a lot of years with her," said Billie about her daughter. "It feels good that she wants to be here with us."

Tossie said she wants to start college in the spring of 2010 at either Florida State University (FSU), which she plans to tour in the Institute of American Indian Arts in New Mexico.

She said she wants to get into the film industry and maintains interests in directing, screenwriting and acting.



(L-R) Uncle, James Tossie, graduate, Jerilyn, and aunt, Rosie at the graduation ceremony on May 20.

## Ft. Pierce's Tomasina Gilliam Graduates

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

FT. PIERCE — Tomasina Gilliam graduated from John Carroll Catholic High School on May 20 at a ceremony held at the Sun-Rise Theater in Ft. Pierce, Fla.

Gilliam, a member of the Ft. Pierce community, will be attending Florida College of Natural

Health located in Pompano Beach, Fla. this summer where she will begin her studies to become a paramedical skin care specialist.

Brother, said he is glad his sister is able to move on in her academic career.

"I am very proud of what she has done," Gilliam said.



Submitted by Rolife Gilliam III  
Tomasina Gilliam

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(L-R) Senior High Principal Patricia Butts with Brittany Huff.



(L-R) Victor Osceola receives his diploma from the principal.

## Two Tribal Citizens Graduate from American Heritage High

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

SUNRISE, Fla. — Brittany Huff and Victor Osceola received their high school diplomas at the 33rd commencement ceremony of American Heritage School in Plantation, Fla. The ceremony was held at the War Memorial Auditorium in Sunrise on May 17.

The two tribal citizens were amongst more than 200 of their peers as they crossed the stage and received their diplomas.

Huff said she plans to attend Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla., and is undecided on her major. Osceola will attend Full Sail University in Orlando, Fla. and major in computer animation.

## Christina Wilson Completes High School

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

SHAWNEE, Okla. — Christina Wilson of Shawnee, Okla. graduated from Shawnee High School in a commencement ceremony held May 19 at Raylee Chapel on the Oklahoma Baptist University campus. "It's relieving to be done," said Wilson.

"It was hard, but fun."

Wilson, the daughter of Dewayne and Maria Wilson, and granddaughter of Henrietta Henry of the Hollywood Reservation was a member of the Shawnee High School volleyball team and Tri-Hi-Y, a girls club that partakes in community service projects.

Wilson has plans to attend Seminole Community College in the fall to earn her associate's degree and later transfer to a state college where she will study psychology.



Christina Wilson

Submitted by Maria Wilson

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## Graduation Bash Held Under the Big Top

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Christine McCall celebrated her graduation under the big top on May 9. She held a circus-themed graduation party, modeled after Britney Spears' current Circus concert tour.

At the party, guests celebrated McCall's recent graduation from Florida State University, where she received a bachelor of art's degree in social work.

Family, friends and Tribal representatives attended and shared fond memories of the graduate. McCall said the Board of Directors and Tribal Council representatives support throughout the years has been tremendous.

The extraordinary event took nearly six months to plan. With the help of Six Star Entertainment, McCall transformed her ideas for her graduation party into a reality.

The circus party included trapeze artists, a temporary tattoo booth,

mimes, jugglers and more. The attendees enjoyed dinner prior to the final event of the night. Britney Spears impersonator Derrick Barry took the stage and had everyone mesmerized by his performances, which were nearly identical to Spears' own performances.

McCall said she loves Spears' music and her stage performance, but has her mother's independence, strong mindedness and goes after what she wants.



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# Sports

C

## Bull Riding Champion Teaches Youth Clinic

**Tribally-Sponsored Rider Chance Smart Educates Rodeo Enthusiasts**

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Almost a dozen bull riding hopefuls got eight seconds closer to a perfect ride after attending the Chance Smart Bull Riding Clinic, held the weekend of May 29-30 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

Smart, sponsored by the Seminole Tribe, is the reigning Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Xtreme Bulls Tour champion and a National Finals Rodeo qualifier.

He started the clinic by first checking out the participants' gear, inspecting their boots, spurs, ropes, gloves, helmets and vests.

"Most of this is all personal preference," Smart said while ruffling through his bag and displaying his gear. "But if you rodeo smart, you'll rodeo a whole lot longer."

Smart discussed how the proper gear can make all the difference, saying headgear has been a debatable issue in the rodeo arena scene for some time. Some riders choose to simply wear cowboy hats which offer some protection to the skull. More than 50 percent of riders have switched to wearing riding helmets.

Helmets with face masks are devised to shield the head from a possible life-threatening blow or contact with a bull's sharp hooves, Smart said. The metal of a bull riding mask is made out of titanium which keeps the face mask from snapping or bending inward and obstructing the jaw or face.

Smart shared with the students how it wasn't until he ended up on the injured list earlier this year after being struck in the head by a horn that he switched to a bull riding mask.

The different types of vests were also discussed in terms of protection. Smart explained to the group that

when selecting a vest make sure to find one with hard plastic to cover the collarbone. Smart also recommended Velcro vests in the case of getting dragged by a bull and being able to rip it off if need be.

"It costs money to upgrade your gear," Smart said. "But it's the difference between a \$400 vest and a \$10,000 doctor bill."

After covering gear it was on to bull riding fundamentals.

Smart went over basic riding procedures while the students sat on barrels and mimicked his teachings.

He showed them the proper way to sit up while on a bull, "chest out, chin down."

"I can teach you how to ride all day but until you practice and develop a habit, it isn't going to happen," Smart said. "Practice on a barrel every day. It takes 21 days to fix a bad habit, one day to create it."

After putting the young men on a bucking horse for a quick run, Smart sent his students home to get ready for the real action that would take place the next day.

Saturday morning Smart gathered his pupils together for a Bible study to begin their adventurous day.

Chute procedures were discussed and then it was on to real live bull riding.

Students took turns riding and then were able to watch their ride on the big screen. During rides Smart ran alongside shouting technique. He talked to each individual after reviewing their ride and gave tips on what they could do to improve, such as the way they were holding on to the rope or holding their arm up in the air.

"All the stuff I'm teaching is from experience," Smart said. "My style is not the only style; it's the style that works for me. Find your style and keep it."



(L-R) Champion bull rider Chance Smart checks Parker Vance's posture.



(L-R) Sabre Billie leads for her team as Rickyjoe Alumbaugh tries to catch up to her.

## Ahfachkee Students Compete at Field Day

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Students from the Ahfachkee School attended their annual field day event, held May 14.

With the help of Coach Randall Cleckler and all the teachers, the children were able to show off their strengths and talents. He said the theme of this year's field day was Fun and Fitness.

From pre-kindergarten through high school, the children were split into two different groups; one group consisted of pre-kindergarten through third graders, and the other for fourth graders up to the high school students.

Each group participated in nearly two dozen events. The events included darts, jump rope, a 40 yard relay, an obstacle course, tug-of-war, Frisbee™ toss and the Pirates and Sharks game.

In this game the two teams took to the field as if they were playing flag football, only without a ball. The "pirates" tried to make their way across the field without getting attacked by a "shark" from the other team. The pirates wore flag belts and had to protect them from the sharks in order to score.

In the darts competition the children used their hand-eye coordination while throwing swimming noodles at a target a few yards in front of them. The players who hit the target scored points for their team, and the team with the most points won.

Coach Cleckler said all the games and obstacles helped the children use their strength, agility, speed, hand, hand-eye-foot coordination as well as provide a cardiovascular workout to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and have fun while doing so.



Ethan Valentine runs to find his missing shoe during the Sneaker Scramble activity.

### 2009 Ahfachkee School Field Day Contest Results

#### Championship Gold (Pre K-Third Grade)

1. Maroon Team: Sontino Billie, Caniah Billie, Adrian Mendoza, Valholly Frank, Thoya Robbins, Katrina Huggins, Nigel Wells, Leslie Gopher, Annabelle Whiteshield; 2. Green Team: Elijah Cook, Angelle Melton, Daleen Osceola, Canaan Jumper, Kylen Jumper, Briana Bowers, Marley Billie-Herrera, Charles Alexander, Eyanna Billie, Kevin Ivey; 3. Black Team: Ivan Billie, Harmony Cypress, Lauren Doctor, Camden Rhymes, Richard Billie, Elise Brown, Alyssa Osceola, Romeo Garcia, Amber Alvarado, Zephaniah Roberts.

#### Championship Gold (4th Grade-High School)

1. Grey Team: Randy Osceola, Rashaun Jim, Alexis Aguilar, Justin Roff, Elyse Frank, Candelario Landin, Christopher Alexander, Sierra Kirkland, John Robbins; 2. Orange Team: Jose Cisneros, Corey Garcia, O'Shaa'ne Cypress, Derrick Tiger, Sabre Billie, Matthew Bluebird, Arnold Billie, Tai Cypress, Ignacio Rodriguez; 3. Yellow Team: Taylor Pratt, Steven Frank, Jessica Osceola, Anthony Cypress, Susie Jim, Leandra Rodriguez, Dalton Koenes, Chelsey Ford, Corbin Billie.

## Tribal Citizen Billy L. Cypress Remembered at Motorcycle Run

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Motorcycle riders and enthusiasts attended the second annual Billy L. Cypress Memorial Run, which began in the back parking lot of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood on May 17.

Meeting up for an early breakfast and an extra early start to the day, the attendees readied their motorcycles for a day full of riding.

The day included scheduled stops in Hollywood with the group ultimately ending up in the parking lot of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. A couple fuel stops were also added into the schedule to keep everyone's motors running.

Daughter Sonya Cypress planned and coordinated the event to memorialize her father. Widow Carol Cypress knew her husband for more than 35 years before he passed away and said she was very happy with the turnout of the event.

Carol Cypress observed that memorials are a part of the healing processes in mourning a loss and added that Billy will always be with her. Nephew Billy Walker further explained this concept, saying motorcyclists traveled from right to left,

similar and symbolic of the Tribal Medicine Circle.

"That is like our way of healing, traveling in a circle from east to west," Walker said.

Carol Cypress said she hopes to continue having memorial events, which she helps her children plan and coordinate.

The day concluded with live entertainment and lunch. Pictures of Billy L.

Cypress were on display for the participants, friends, and family and community members to remember his legacy.

In 1989, Billy L. Cypress became executive director of the Seminole Tribal Museum Authority, shortly after plans emerged to begin construction of what is now known as the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Sonya Cypress, daughter of the late Billy L. Cypress, leads the pack as the bikers depart from the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino parking lot in Hollywood.



Billy L. Cypress' widow, Carol, displays photos of family memorabilia.



# Annual Seminole Tribe Sports Festival Enters 10th Year

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

Tribal citizens and guests gathered together once more for the annual Tribal Sports Festival, which took place throughout Memorial Day weekend, May 21-25.

Entering its 10th year, the festival brought natives from all across the country who competed in events including pool, bowling and golf.

"I have continued to see it grow," said Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. "It keeps everyone active and allows us to see each other because we do not get many opportunities."

Rep. Osceola has been a 10 year participant in bowling and golf throughout the tournament's history. Pembroke Pines' AMF Bowling Lanes hosted the action again with singles, doubles and team play.

"I enjoy the sportsmanship and being involved," he explained. "You get to see the competitive nature of everyone come out also."

Tribal citizen Josh Garza decided to give bowling a try this year partnering with his aunt, Virginia Billie.

"It is something I do a lot more and I picked up on it by practicing," Garza said. "I enjoy it more than the billiards."

Tribal citizen Kyle Doney was a part of tournament golf play with Jacaranda

Golf Club as the selected course for the event.

"It has been a joint effort and [the Tribal] Council has been important financially," Doney expressed. "I like getting together with everybody and the friendly competition makes it fun."

Perennial participants Michelle McDermott of Tulsa, Okla., and Lawrence Lano of Ganado, Ariz., both attested to the fact that the festival allows natives the opportunity to communicate, network, compete and have a good time.

"I have met a lot of new people and made a lot of friends along the way," said McDermott.

She won the 8-ball women's championship with the Hard Rock as the setting for double elimination action.

"[Pool] has been a big part of my life as well as the competing," she said. "I wanted to try my best and I also have fun playing because I love it. I just enjoy the fact that anybody can do this, no matter what their age."

Lano agreed, saying the Tribal Sports Festival promotes physical activity for competitors of all ages.

"I enjoy the competition of the festival," said Lano, of the Navajo Reservation. "In Indian country there are a lot of health problems so this type of gathering helps and promotes a good or better lifestyle for all of us."



Cicero Osceola focuses on his next move in men's 8-ball play.

Chris C. Jenkins



Virginia Billie on the approach during doubles action.

Chris C. Jenkins



Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress with 8-ball women's winner Michelle McDermott of Tulsa, Okla.

Chris C. Jenkins

## Tribal Sports Festival Results

### Golf

1. Jim Harrison/Vernon Jacobs, 2. Jason Tommie/Lawrence Osceola, 3. Raymond Garza Jr./Wayne Pratt, 4. Max Tommie/Jeremy Harrison, 5. Raymond Garza Sr./Ken Campbell

### Pool

Senior Women's 8 Ball: 1. Shirley Pigeon, 2. Donna Howell, 3. Diana On-lyachief; Senior Men's 8 Ball: 1. Charley La Sarge, 2. Les Gourd, 3. Sonny Tiger; Women's 8 Ball: 1. Michelle McDermott, 2. Brittany Culbert, 3. Naomi Williams; Men's 8 Ball: 1. Stan Tourangeau, 2. John Shawnee, 3. Phillip Davis. Women's Teams: 1. Magos Natives: Michelle McDermott, Brittany Colbert, Donna Gibson, Carlene Echohawk, 2. Slightly Stacked: Naomi Williams, Karla Bagley, Cheryl Backward, Diana Only A Chief, 3. Native Ladies: Laura Clay, Jane Freeman, Juanita Osceola, Hope Baker; Men's Teams: 1. Out Kasts: OB Osceola, George Grasshopper, David Cypress, Stan Tourangeau, Phil Tourangeau, (sub) Elrod Bowers, 2. Oklahoma Redstix: Sonny Tiger, Jay Echo hawk, Ralph Gray, Charles Osceola, Charley Lasargo, 3. Smooth Stokers: Ralph Sanchez, David Nunez, Boogie Nunez, Dallas Nunez, Leon Micco. Senior Women's 9 Ball: 1. Diane Only A Chief, 2. Jane Freeman, 3. Dale Grasshopper; Senior Men's 9 Ball: 1. Sonny Tiger, 2. Jay Echohawk, 3. Ralph Gray; Women's 9 Ball: 1. Naomi Williams, 2. Michelle McDermott, 3. Carlene Echohawk; Men's 9 Ball: 1. Stan Tourangeau, 2. Phillip Davis, 3. Justin Gopher. Scotch Doubles: 1. Charley Lasargo/Phalyn Osceola, 2. Stan Tourangeau/Naomi Williams, 3. David Cypress/Laura Clay.

### Bowling

Senior Men's Singles: 1. (Tie) Diane Smith, 559, 1. (Tie) Linda Tommie, 559, 3. Mary Alice Smith, 509; Senior Men's Singles: 1. David Jumper, 629, 2. Elbert Snow, 595, 3. Eugene Bowers, 573; Women's Singles: 1. Leona Johnson, 603, 2. Crystal Weimann, 601, 3. Pamela S. Jumper, 589; Men's Singles: 1. Robert Frank III, 691, 2. Robert "Bobby" Frank, 687, 3. Leon Wilcox Sr., 680.

Senior Women's Doubles: 1. Rose Jones/Linda Tommie, 1077, 2. Diane Smith/Linda Tommie, 1038 3. Rose Jones/Mary Jo Micco, 973; Senior Men's Doubles: 1. Roger Smith/Parker Jones, 1207, 2. Billie Micco/Parker Jones, 1182, 3. Elbert Snow/Eugene Bowers, 1132; Women's Doubles: 1. Cathy Jumper/Mary Tigertail, 1224, 2. Reina Micco/Crystal Weimann, 1128, 3. Meredith Bullard/Alfreda Muskett, 1127; Men's Doubles: 1. Jerome Davis/Leon Wilcox Sr., 1381, 2. Merle Billie/Mathew D. Thomas, 1334, 3. Marcellus Osceola/Philmon Bowers, 1290; Mixed Doubles: 1. Michelle Osceola/Leon Wilcox Jr., 1265, 2. Michelle Osceola/Jerome Davis, 1256, 3. Crystal Weimann/Jerome Davis, 1235; Senior Mixed Doubles: 1. Linda Tommie/Elbert Snow, 1123, 2. Diane Smith/Roger Smith, 1064, 3. Linda Tommie/Moses Osceola, 1041.

Senior Women's Team: 1. Mary Jo Micco, Mary Alice Smith, Jeanette Cypress, Linda Tommie, 2062, 2. Mary Jo Micco, Rose Jones, Diane Smith, Linda Tommie, 1905; Senior Men's Team: 1. David Jumper, Moses Osceola, Elbert Snow, Eugene Bowers, 2379, 2. Billie Micco, Mingo Jones, Moses Osceola, Parker Jones, 2364, 3. Roger Smith, Parker Jones, Elbert Snow, Eugene Bowers, 2262; Women's Team: 1. Trisha Osceola, Amanda Smith, Reina Micco, Farrarh Jones, 2118, 2. Denise Billie, Alfreda Muskett, Jackie Thompson, Terri Frank, 2112, 3. Trisha Osceola, Stacy Jones, Pamela Jumper, Leona Johnson, 2076; Men's Team: 1. Antillix Stockton, Leon Wilcox Jr., Jerome Davis, Leon Wilcox Sr., 2680 2. Chris Hulbutta, Ken Wilcox Jr., Jerome Davis, Kyle Doney, 2651, 3. Mathew D. Thomas, Ken Doney, Marcellus Osceola, Philmon Bowers, 2649; Mixed Team: 1. Denise Billie, Carla Cypress, Robert Frank III, Danny Tommie, 2446, 2. Margaret Wilcox, Patricia Wilcox, Marcellus Osceola, Leon Wilcox Sr., 2359, 3. Patricia Wilcox, Farrarh Jones, Jerome Davis, Leon Wilcox Sr., 2333; Senior Mixed Team: 1. Mary Jo Micco, Mary Alice Smith, Moses Osceola, Billie Micco, 2168, 2. Mary Jo Micco, Billie Micco, Rose Jones, Parker Jones, 2119, 3. Linda Tommie, Eugene Bowers, Mary Alice Smith, Elbert Snow, 2065.

# Students Triumph Against Staff in Ahfachkee School Basketball Game

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ahfachkee Seminole Warriors battled on the basketball court in the Herman Osceola Gym on May 22 against the school staff, and came away triumphant, but not without a valiant fight.

Pitting the skills of youth, vitality and agility against the wisdom and experience of age created a level playing field for this annual event that enhances school spirit.

Promoting National Stroke Awareness Month, each grade had prepared a poster and/or chant to call attention to the importance of working to prevent heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels and related circulatory illnesses. Midway through the game, the classes came down from the bleachers and took turns displaying their artwork, slogans and school spirit.

Principal Walt Swan led the Warriors' cheering section that comprised the entire school enrollment. He spoke about the importance of keeping physically fit to prevent health issues, such as stroke.

"Basketball keeps the old heart ticking ... The more it pumps, the more fun we have," Swan said.

"I am very proud of all of our participants today," Swan added. "You have shown ingenuity, enthusiasm and creativity in your effort to deliver the message that 'Stroke is No Joke.' After careful consideration, we have determined that the third and fourth grade have tied for the Spirit Award and will be custodians of our Tomahawk to be placed on display in their classrooms."

Physical Education Coach Randall Cleckler also amped up the students, telling them, "Fitness is something to shout about."

"You have shown me that you have learned a lot about stroke awareness," Cleckler continued. "I want you to take this knowledge home with you and share it with your families. Strive to make a difference and create a healthier lifestyle."

During halftime, the students participated in a Hula hoop contest and displayed their agility in single and double jump rope competitions. Several of the teachers couldn't miss the opportunity to show off their skills with the ropes, but quickly realized they had stiff competition in the younger generation.

During the first two quarters of the game, it was an even match. The scores crept slowly higher with never more than a two or three point difference as first one team and then the other took the lead. The game was often tied and the audience went wild at half time when the score was 38 to 37 in favor of the students.

After a short break the stamina of youth began to forge ahead, while age and skill began to take a back seat in the competition. The staff did a great job of making every shot count and continued to elevate their score, but the students were all over the court. Frequently gaining control of the ball, they sunk one basket after another as they pulled out in front of their opponents.

In the final 20 seconds of the game, the staff had the ball, shot and lost it to the students. As the buzzer sounded, student Rashaun Jim made one last shot, pushing the score to 82-61, in favor of the Ahfachkee students.



Teacher Joey Hernandez (C) makes his shot to tie up the game in the first quarter.

Judy Weeks



Pre-kindergarten student Carlise Bermudez holds up a poster announcing National Stroke Awareness Month.

Judy Weeks



(Front Row, L-R) Terinna Cypress and Principal Walt Swan support the trophy that will be held for one year by the Student Team of (Back Row, L-R) Nautikee Henry, Taylor Pratt, Anthony Balentine, Trent McInturf, Jonathan Robbins and Lariah Balentine.

Judy Weeks



(L-R) Dean of Students Dominique Troade, student Terinna Cypress and Instructional Aide Dustin Tiger work the ball down the court.

Judy Weeks



# Eastern Indian Rodeo Association Salutes Cinco de Mayo Holiday

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Members of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) competed on May 9 at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch in a rodeo tribute to our neighbors from across the Rio Grande.

A major holiday for all persons of Mexican descent, Cinco de Mayo celebrates the day that the peasants, carrying old guns, machetes, knives and pitchforks, fought against their well-armed French conquerors in a battle for their freedom.

Assistant Natural Resource Director of the Seminole Tribe Alex Johns plays a major role in their cattle and range programs. A third generation Brighton cattleman, he grew up on the back of a horse, working cattle and competing in rodeo. For years Johns was a familiar figure in the EIRA, Professional Cowboy Association, and most recently, the Working Ranch Cowboy Association.

An outstanding Bareback Bronc Rider, Johns opened the rodeo by putting on a large black and silver Mexican sombrero in a salute to Cinco de Mayo. The rigging was set, the chute door opened and the bronc spun around like a top.

Johns settled in for the ride and barely missed making his 8 seconds for a qualified ride. When the announcer, Norman Edwards, interviewed Johns after his wild ride, he asked him what he would do differently next time. Johns replied, "Change hats!"

A special tribute was paid in memory of Sampson Gopher, an EIRA favorite who specialized in Calf Roping, Team Roping and Bull Riding during his extensive rodeo career. A 1995 Indian National Finals Rodeo qualifier, he left a big boot print on the lives of everyone he touched. Gopher's slogan was "Load Up and Let's Go!"

2008 EIRA Saddle Bronc Champion Tyler Humble came from Gainesville, Ga., to perform in the Cinco de Mayo event. This was only his second competition after breaking his leg during the Indian National Finals Rodeo last year. A member of the Cherokee Tribe, Humble has been following the rodeo circuit for 17 years in the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association and EIRA.

"I keep a close eye on rodeo all across the country and unfortunately, I have seen a downturn in the number of new youngsters becoming involved in this sport," he said. "I am very happy to see that the EIRA have added Chute Dogging and Steer Un-decorating to their youth events. This will help these youngsters develop their skills for the adult competition and enhance their interest in participating. Already I see an influx of new faces from last year."

Cinco de Mayo belt buckles were awarded to all first place winners in both the sanctioned and non sanctioned events.

Andrew Holmes' 61 points

earned the Junior Bareback Riding buckle. His competition, William Bearden had slipped to the side on his bronc and slammed into the fence and gate post before breaking free. It was a difficult few moments, but then he was up and limping out of the arena, only to return a short time later for the Steer Wrestling. Bareback Riders Cody Parker and Jacoby Johns tied for first with 73 points in the Adult Division.

It was "down goes the price of beef" for Ivan Bruised Head with a 7 second flat run in the Steer Wrestling. He returned for a second buckle with a 60 point ride in the Saddle Bronc division. His nephew, Wilse Bruised Head beat him in the Calf Roping by just 2 seconds with a 16.4 run.

It was a rough night for the ten riders in the Women's Breakaway. The steers managed to elude all but one rider. Mindy Fish caught right out of the box with a 5.4 second run. The same scenario proved true for the Men's 50 and Older Breakaway. Tom Koenes snagged his steer with a second loop in just 22.6 seconds and took home the winning buckle.

Twenty three teams threw their hats in the ring in the Team Roping with brothers, Josh and Naha Jumper taking first place in just 6.6 seconds. Carrera Gopher was a full second ahead of her competition when she flew through the cloverleaf pattern to win the Ladies Barrel Racing, which included 16 entries.

Buckles went to the following first place winners in the Junior Rodeo: Mutton Bustin': Myron Billie, Pony Riding: Blevyns Jumper; Calf Riding: Jobe Johns; Steer Riding: Andre Jumper; Junior Bull Riding: Ernie Courson; Chute Doggin': Ethan Gopher; 4-8 Barrel Racing: Brighton Bauman; 9-12 Barrel Racing: Jobe Johns; 13-18 Barrel Racing: Acelynn Youngblood; Junior Breakaway: Dalton Boney; Junior Steer Un-Decorating: Blevyns Jumper; Senior Steer Un-Decorating: Dalton Boney.



Judy Weeks

Breanna Bowers guides her palomino through the cloverleaf pattern.

# EIRA Hosts Memorial Day Rodeo

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) paid tribute to the memory of the brave men and women who have given their lives to protect their homeland and the right to freedom for all mankind during the Grand Entry of the Memorial Weekend Rodeo on May 16.

A prayer was offered for our armed forces around the world as they protect these rights, followed by a moment of silence for the warrior veterans who have made

steers right out of the box. Andre Jumper had his down in 4.48 seconds and Billy Folley was a close second with 5.09.

The 4-8 year old division barrel racing competitor Brighton Bauman won her second first place buckle at two rodeos back to back. Give her a few years and she will become stiff competition for buckle winners Kalgary Johns in the 9-12 year old division and Janae Brasswell in the 13-17 year age category.

The rules of Junior Breakaway allow a time limit of one minute to rope the steer, but the rider can use as many loops as he can make during that time period. Putting

these regulations into practice, Blevyns Jumper took first place with his second loop, beating out his nine comrades. Jumper isn't just good at throwing a rope; he's also honing his skills on horseback and pulled off a 2.6 second run in the Junior Steer Un-Decorating.

Chebon Gooden leaned down from his horse and snatched the ribbon off his steer's hump in just 9.3 seconds out of the box during the Senior Steer Un-Decorating.

William Bearden may have been bruised and battered at the previous rodeo, but he was all healed up and took home the buckle in the Junior Bareback event.

In the adult division, Jacoby Johns was the only one with a qualifying ride of the four entries.

He earned an impressive 74 points and took home the buckle.

Tyler Humble made another trip all the way from Georgia to teach those Saddle Broncs a lesson. Wearing eye-catching iridescent green chaps, Humble could be seen all the way across the arena as he bucked out a mean sorrel that goes by the handle of Tequila Sunrise. The 68 points he earned gave him the top position for the night.

Steer Wrestler Naha Jumper flew off his horse and threw his steer to the ground with a Half Nelson in 5.3 seconds. However, he didn't fair quite so well in the Calf Roping when he made an awesome run of 14.5 seconds, only to have Ivan Bruised Head beat him out by just 2 seconds.

In the roping events, Paul Bowers Sr. took home the Legends Division buckle when he roped his steer in 6.8 seconds out of the box. Al Tigertail and Josh Anderson were the last pair out of 23 entries to compete in the Team Roping but came in first on the time sheet. It appears that they saved the best for last.

Shelby Osceola ran away with the Ladies Breakaway after a 4.3 second catch. With 16 riders to beat, Carrera Gopher cornered her second win in just one week's time.

Bull Rider Koty Brugh came in from the Dakotas just in time to take back a buckle for a first place ride.



Judy Weeks

Myron Billie took first place in the Mutton Bustin' events for the past two rodeos in a row.

great sacrifices on our behalf.

Memorial Day buckles were awarded to all first place winners in both the Junior and Sanctioned Rodeo events.

The Junior Rodeo began with 16 boys and girls matching wits in the Mutton Bustin', where they get their first taste of the arena clay and the roar of the crowd. Grabbing a handful of wool and with a heart full of courage, these young buckaroos muster up their courage and exit the chute in hopes of staying glued on the backs of their mounts.

And that is just what Myron Billie and David Deschene did. Tying for first place with 30 second runs, they remounted for a tie breaker with Myron Billie triumphing against his competition.

Blevyns Jumper completed his 6 seconds for a qualified 52 point exhibition in the Pony Riding and took home his buckle. Young Raven King showed everybody how it's done when he placed first in the Calf Riding with 44 points.

Moving up in size and stature, Andre Jumper and Frank Huff tied for the top slot in the Steer Riding and shared their laurels. Both of these young athletes began as preschoolers in the Mutton Bustin', climbed up the ladder to Calf Riding and are now matching wits with the Steers.

It's only been a few months since Chute Doggin' had its debut at EIRA, but already these young cowboys are mastering the science of tackling and flipping their

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# Meaghan Osceola Recognized at Miami-Herald All-Broward Awards

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

DAVIE, Fla. — Tribal citizen and athlete Meaghan Osceola had a big day of recognition May 27. The multi-talented athletic star took center stage as part of the *Miami-Herald* All-Broward Athletic Awards ceremony, held at the Signature Grand.

"I just wanted to do well," Osceola said of her athletic career at her Pine Crest high school. "I set goals for myself each day and it just all happened." Her efforts were recognized this time on the soft-ball diamond by the major South Florida publication, along with close to 500 other stellar athletes in Broward County. The awards paid homage to first team selections in several areas including football, tennis, volleyball, cheerleading, flag-football, lacrosse and a host of other sports.

Osceola finished her 2009 season as the leader in Broward County's 4A-1A district in hitting with a .611 batting percentage, one home run and 10 stolen bases at the designated hitter (DH) position. She finished ranked in the top five in the county among all classes 1A through 6A. She also played short stop on defense and was the team captain. She also finished as a first team selection for the *Sun-Sentinel* selections.

"I expected a really good season from her but she has also really matured," said first year Lady Pine Crest Head Women's Softball Coach and assistant women's basketball Coach Mike Thompson.

Thompson said Osceola's play loomed large throughout as she went 12 for 12 starting out the season and only struck out once in the Lady Panthers' final game.

Pine Crest Director of Athletics Jim Foster also ap-

plauded Osceola's contribution to Pine Crest's athletic teams.

"She had a great senior year so for her to lead this county in hitting is a really great accomplishment," Foster explained. "Our program will greatly miss her and she has been a big part of it."

Osceola said she actually got into playing the sport for her school through friend and first base teammate Ashley Comras.

The 5'6" senior point guard for the basketball team made a verbal commitment to play on the college level for Emmanuel College, a Catholic, liberal arts and sciences college in Boston in the April issue of the Tribune. She finished with All-Broward honorable mention honors for her efforts on the court.

"Meaghan is one of those natural athletes and any sport she wants to play in she just does well," father and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. pointed out.

She has also participated in equestrian and swimming throughout the years. There is even talk of Osceola playing duel roles when she begins attending the school. "I think she could be very accomplished on the college level in softball," Foster assured.

Tribal citizens Ariah and Aimee Osceola out of Hollywood Christian High School also received recognition at the event. Ariah finished with second team honors at point guard for the Lady Eagles. Aimee received an honorable mention at the forward position. Both finished with a 22-9 mark on the season.

Since 1964 the *Miami Herald* has honored the best in sports with their list of the top players, teams and coaches in each district. For more information please log on to [www.miamiherald.com](http://www.miamiherald.com).



(L-R) Parents Marge Osceola and Max B. Osceola Jr. with Meaghan Osceola, Pine Crest Softball Coach Mike Thompson and Pine Crest Director of Athletics Jim Foster.

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(L-R) Raymond Garza Sr., Virginia Billie and Raymond Garza Jr. birdied 11 of their 18 holes.

## Competitors Attend Levi Stevens Memorial Golf Tournament

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Native Americans gathered on the links of the Heritage Bay Golf Course on May 15 for the first annual Levi Stevens Memorial Golf Tournament.

Raymond Garza Sr. spoke briefly during the event to honor the memory of his young cousin, and the tournament's namesake.

"Levi was the son of my uncle, Jacob Osceola, and spent the first half of his life growing up in Tampa," he said. "When he was approximately 8 years old, his mother took a job with Universal Studios and they moved to the Orlando area. A very athletic young man, Levi had a keen interest in sports and eventually took up golf during high school."

"Even though he was only 18 years old, Levi was actively playing in tournaments and I had the pleasure of joining him on the course in Orlando and Hollywood. Today's tournament is in memory of the unfinished life of a very talented young man," concluded Garza.

The all-Indian scramble kicked off at 10:30 a.m. under a cloudy sky with a strong wind that proved to work in the favor of the players. With threatening clouds looming over their heads, the participants quickly made their way around the 18 holes and managed to complete their game before the impending storm arrived.

Apparently this group of avid golfers plays their best under pressure. Two teams tied for first place with a score of 59, each having tied birdies and one eagle. They finished 13 under par. Waving their option for a sudden death play off, Marcellus Osceola Jr., James Tommie and Duane Pratt joined

Raymond Garza Sr., Virginia Billie and Raymond Garza Jr. in a division of the prize winners.

All of the teams had an exceptional day with the second place score of 62 belonging to Lawrence Osceola, Mondo Tiger, Ricky Doctor and Abe Rockwell. Just one point shy, John Madrigal, Jason Tommie and Bruce Pratt came in third.

Winners of the Longest Drive were Ricky Doctor for the Men's Division and Virginia Billie for the Ladies.

Four holes were designated for the Closest to the Pin Contest and the winners were: #6: James Tommie, #8: James Tommie, #13: Ray Garza Sr., #17: Jason Tommie.

Abe Rockwell completed the Longest Putt on #11 when his ball traveled more than 20 feet, barely skimmed the edge of the cup and then stopped two inches beyond.



Jason Tommie (R) replaces the pin following a difficult shot by John Madrigal (L).

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# HealthD



(L-R) Thomas Ballard of Hollywood's Health Dept. gets his blood sugar checked by Gayle Riser.

## Community Gets Educated at Health, Wellness Expo

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Tribal citizens, community members and Tribal employees put their health first on June 3 at the Brighton Health and Wellness Expo, held in the Veterans' Building auditorium.

Sponsored by the Health Dept., the Health and Wellness Expo consisted of 23 different organizations from within the Seminole Tribe and surrounding communities with more than 50 vendors offering information and free health screenings.

The expo proved to be a success with 100-plus attendees.

Upon entering the event, participants signed in and received a booklet that included information and a place for vendors to sign off, indicating each person took part in their presentation.

Gayle Riser, a registered nurse case manager for the Seminole Tribe, was stationed next to the registration table where she offered blood sugar screenings. With just a quick prick of the finger, Riser informed participants of what their blood sugar level was and whether or not there was a reason for concern in regards to the possibility of diabetes.

"An event like this is important in helping with health screenings and showing the community what the Tribe has to offer," said Riser.

Some of the other organizations that were present and offering information included the Tribal Family Services and Emergency Management Departments, the Okeechobee County Health Dept., Planned Parenthood, the March of Dimes and Martha's House, an Okeechobee, Fla.-based social services organization.

Representatives from the Seminole Tribe's Recreation Dept. also participated and educated the attendees on good fats and bad fats. Participants were given a body fat analysis and information on the benefits of using a stability ball.

"There's a little bit of everything here," said Fitness Specialist Kai Setty. "The Expo offers solutions to problems that Tribal members might have and it may offer early detection and catching a problem early can really save them."

The Fitness Dept. employees enticed people to stop by with their prize wheel. Once passersby spun the wheel, they viewed corresponding posters of stretches and proper stretching techniques. The department also handed out a schedule with different classes offered during the month.

"We are really just inviting them in to participate," said Denise Masak of the Fitness Dept.

Lisa Rodriguez represented the Alzheimer's Association at the Expo.

"Alzheimer's touches a lot of people today," said Rodriguez. "We want to start educating so they can stay healthy as well as mentally healthy."

Henry Cancel, a law enforcement trainer for the Alzheimer's Association, explained that the association does more than simply provide information about the degenerative mental disease.

"It goes far beyond information," said Cancel. "We have worked with and trained the Seminole Police Dept. on dealing with people suffering from Alzheimer's and have taught them things to look for in someone who might be suffering."

Members of the Seminole Police and Fire Rescue Departments attended and offered free blood pressure screenings and information on drug awareness.

Participants received vital information on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Goodie bags were handed out and individuals received lots of handouts from all of the vendors raising awareness for their cause.

"Anything to bring the community out and help make them aware is always a good thing," said Setty.



Willie Johns (R) has his blood pressure checked at the expo.



(L-R) Family Services Dept. Prevention Specialist Fred Mullins stands by as Immokalee Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis conducts the impaired driving test.

## Tribal Community Encouraged to 'Spring Into Health'

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — The Immokalee Community Health Fair 2009, sponsored by the Allied Health Dept., took place on May 21 at the Immokalee Gym.

The event, titled "Spring Into Health," invited all Tribal citizens and employees to take a close look at the numerous opportunities available to combat common health issues that confront various segments of society during their lifetime.

"Knowledge brings power," said Allied Health Program Manager Suzanne Davis. "Learning what we can do to promote a healthy lifestyle for ourselves and our families can help us meet the challenges that we encounter during the normal aging process. We want to help you take control when possible, but when this is not an option, it is imperative that you obtain the proper treatment."

Booths lined the gym with informational materials and qualified attendants ready to address prevention and treatment methods that can make a difference in the quality of a healthy lifestyle.

"Often people recognize that they have problems, but remain reluctant to acknowledge them and seek counseling or medical assistance," said Immokalee Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro. "Even worse, many people do not realize that the symptoms they are feeling are not unique to them alone and with proper guidance they can identify the source, find possible relief or prevent physical or mental deterioration. Our goal is to provide you with a key that will open the door to better health."

Various departments of the Seminole Tribe participated in the fair together with qualified health personnel from local government agencies and medical facilities.

The Collier County Health Dept. dealt with prevention, detection and treatment options for HIV, AIDS and STDs, while the March of Dimes addressed conditions that can adversely affect moms and their babies. Representatives from the American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Association, American Heart Association and the Brief Intervention and Treatment for Elders (BRITE) also attended.

Dentists, ophthalmologists, podiatrists and even a urologist were available to answer questions and encourage treatment.

Medical, social and recreational workers from the Seminole Tribe addressed diabetes, obesity, addiction, detoxification, environmental health programs, fitness, cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease and mental health.

The Prevention Dept. of Family Services and the Aftercare Program set up a driving course where participants competed in speed, perception and dexterity. After completing the course, they were given a pair of glasses for a second round that simulated conditions created by driving while impaired. The impact upon the driver's ability was enormous.

The Recreation Dept. set up a mini golf course with a hole-in-one game and staff from the Immokalee Ranch joined the Family Services Dept. for a Hula hoop and Limbo contest to liven up the festivities.

As participants circulated around the booths, raffle tickets for door prizes and games were distributed along with small gifts and health supplies to enhance the positive experience promoted by the Health Fair.

## Dove® Campaign for Real Beauty Workshop Held

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Tribal girls and young ladies gathered once again to discuss issues of self esteem May 28 in the Dove® Real Beauty Mother-Daughter Workshop.



(L-R) Thelma Bowers works on a mother-daughter bonding activity with her daughter, Mariah.

The Tribe's Family Services Dept. hosted the workshop, which took place at the Hollywood Community Center, with Family Services Intervention Specialist Julie Bennett-Barrow emceeing.

Maintaining awareness and raising self esteem among young females and women, as well as building stronger mother-daughter relationships, rounded out the event's highlighted points. The target audience, youth and teens ages 7-13, and a host of mothers, mentors, and grandparents came to enjoy the evening.

"It is good to have this type of thing," said Tribal citizen Carla Cypress. "There are so many pressures now on females."

Cypress brought her two daughters, Billie and Lena, to the event.

"I wanted to get some ideas for them and gather skills to help better relate to them later when they get older," Cypress added.

The Big Cypress and Fort Pierce Reservations have already hosted similar events. Brighton, Immokalee and Tampa events will be take place this fall, according to Bennett-Barrow.

Guests in attendance enjoyed dinner along with raffles and giveaways and received goodie bags and custom T-shirts to commemorate the event.

"We continue to notice a need for mothers and daughters to bond," Hollywood Family Services Dept. Counselor Tempany Verzaal explained. "Putting on this kind of workshop sends another entirely different message."



(L-R) Billie Cypress and Luxie Billie work on fun activities together during the workshop.

"I would bring my daughter or granddaughter and what we want to continue to stress is that it does not matter what you look like, it is what is on the inside, as corny as that sounds," she continued.

The Dove® Campaign for Real Beauty remains a global effort dedicated to serving as a measuring point for societal change among youth and women. For more information please log on to [www.campaignforrealbeauty.com](http://www.campaignforrealbeauty.com).



(L-R) Dennis Gonzales of the Recreation Dept. helps Raymond James Mora spin the wheel to better fitness.



# Tribe Tackles Child Welfare with Family Preservation Initiative

Family Preservation Project Core Team Hosts Kick-Off Event

BY ERIC BRUCKER  
Contributing Writer

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Family Preservation Project Core Team hosted its kick-off event for its Family Preservation Project at the Seminole Hard Rock on June 2.

The purpose of the project is to improve services offered to Tribal children and families affected by substance abuse and child abuse and neglect.

The core team for the project, established in October 2008, consists of Helene Buster, Family Services Dept. director, Kristi Hill, Family Services Dept. Family Preservation Program Administrator, Stan Wolfe, Dispute Resolution Dept. director, Terry Sweet, Health Dept. administrative Services director, and Sgt. John Bissett of the Seminole Police Department.

The key framework for the Family Preservation Project involves a grant-funded, In-Depth-Technical-Assistance-Program, which includes consultation from Nadja Jones of the National Indian Child Welfare Association, and Nancy Young, executive director of the National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare.

During the kick-off event, Jones and Young presented nearly seven hours worth of material to an audience of 45, including representatives from several Tribal departments and also Tribal government representatives and Tribal citizens.

The goal of the Family Preservation Project is to establish a collaborative internal network of interdepartmental representatives and community members who will work cooperatively in dealing with child welfare issues within the Tribe. This will include a great deal of cross training of various departmental staff on issues such as identifying signs of substance abuse, child abuse and child neglect.

The project will also seek to improve interdepartmental communication while developing a more ef-

fective system for disseminating important child welfare information between departments.

The Seminole Tribe was featured in the spring 2009 edition of the social work professional journal, Pathways Practice Digest, for taking the initiative of working with the National Indian Child Welfare Association in developing a Tribal systems collaboration program.

Jones is hopeful about the future success of the program.

"With resources from all governmental departments and programs available to 'wrap around' the Tribal families, their success at maintaining healthy lifestyles, free of substance abuse and abuse and neglect, is much more achievable," she said.

The In-Depth-Technical-Assistance-Program, which is funded through grants from the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, has been implemented with great success in other regions throughout the country.

In April of this year, members of the Family Preservation Project Core Team spent a week in Sacramento, Calif., meeting with representatives from the region's social services programs and family court system. This allowed the core team to see the end product of a child welfare system shaped through the In-Depth-Technical-Assistance program.

"The program is very supportive and non-judgmental toward the family members," said core team member Kristi Hill. "They focus on the positive and really try to encourage parents to complete their care plans."

It is precisely this spirit of encouragement and positivity that the Family Preservation Project Core Team hopes to apply to the Seminole Tribe's child welfare system, which has been inundated by a flurry of activity, responding to 149 Department of Children and Families investigations for child abuse and neglect between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009.



Violet Jim (R) has her ears checked at the HearX screening table during the health and wellness event on May 20.

## Community Members Attend Annual Health, Wellness Fair

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Tribal Allied Health Dept., with help from Tribal departments and non-Tribal public health organizations, put on the annual health and wellness gathering in the Herman L. Osceola Gym on May 20.

Community members and employees attended the gathering for information on various subjects dealing with health and wellbeing.

Booths lined the gym with representatives from various organizations, including the March of Dimes, Seminole Police Dept., and Family Services Dept., to educate community members on a variety of health-related topics. Several organizations also provided health screenings and included information about services they provide, handing pamphlets answering some commonly asked questions.

Representatives from the March of Dimes handed out information from their new program for Native Americans entitled "The Coming of the Blessing, A Pathway to Healthy Pregnancy." Patti Kodish of the March of Dimes said she has been working closely with the Tribe for nearly two years, although the Tribe had been involved with the March of Dimes previously.

Kodish said she was happy to be a part of the wellness gathering and to be able to share information with those in attendance.



(L-R) Edna McDuffie of the Health Dept. and Patti Kodish of the March of Dimes at the March of Dimes booth, one of many booths at the health fair.

## Public Notice: EPA Region 4 Reissues NPDES General Permit

SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT DEPT.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 4's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit authorizing the discharge of stormwater from construction activities on Tribal lands will expire on April 30.

The coverage area for the expiring permit includes all Indian Country lands within the states of Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and North Carolina. This general permit authorizes eligible discharges of stormwater from small and large construction activities that result in a total land disturbance equal to or greater than one acre, and from small sites that are part

of a larger, common plan of development.

This permit requires operators of such construction sites to implement stormwater controls and develop stormwater pollution prevention plans to prevent sediment and other pollutants associated with construction sites from being discharged in stormwater runoff.

On May 15, the draft permit and fact sheet will be available for public review and comment at [www.epa.gov/region4/water/permits/stormwater.html](http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/permits/stormwater.html). This website will also provide a link to the Federal Register Notice for the permit reissuance.

To obtain a copy of the proposed permit and/or fact sheet, or for more information, please contact Alanna Conley at (404) 562-9443.

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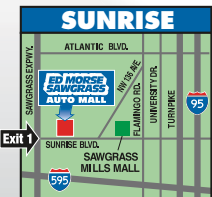
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# Safe Grilling and Indoor Air Quality

BY KIRK TRENCHFIELD  
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Kirk Trenchfield is the Indoor Air Quality Specialist for the Tribe's Environmental Health Program. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to kirk@tribe.com.]

Summertime is here again. For all you grilling fans out there, we are going to discuss some simple safety tips on how to enjoy your outdoor grilling experience while maintaining good indoor air quality (IAQ). The quality of air we breathe indoors can be affected by many factors but we are going to focus on the effects of grilling on IAQ.

When fossil fuels such as propane or charcoal are burned, it produces the combustion pollutant carbon monoxide (CO). This is a deadly colorless, odorless gas that kills more than 200 people each year in the U.S. As it relates to grilling, each year about 17 people die as a result of exposure to CO fumes from burning charcoal indoors or in poorly ventilated areas.

Sources of combustion pollutants include unvented gas and charcoal grills, gas stoves, gas ovens, and back-drafting of smoke during outdoor grilling.

Here in Florida, we sometimes experience power outages during hurricanes. During these times, we may often resort to other means of cooking due to the loss of power. The indoor use of charcoal or gas grills and also gas-powered generators can cause mild to serious carbon monoxide poisoning, breathing problems, asthma

attacks, and possible death to people in the home.

To ensure that combustion pollutants do not create IAQ problems, here are some safety tips:

Never use a gasoline-powered generator indoors. Gas-powered generators must be used outdoors, in a well-ventilated area away from windows, doors and home air-intakes.

Never use charcoal or gas grills indoors for cooking or heating.

Never grill in the garage, next to opened doors, windows or air intake of the home. This can cause smoke to back draft and enter the house.

All potential combustion sources should be properly vented to the outside of the building.

Do not forget to shut off the gas valve after using the grill.

Never bring or store a propane tank inside the house. If there is a gas leak, the consequences can be very dangerous.

Always store gas tanks in a covered, outdoor space or garage, and away from direct heat. Heat will cause the gas pressure to rise, which can open the relief valve allowing gas to escape.

Charcoal will continue to produce CO fumes until the charcoal is completely extinguished. Therefore, never store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

Make sure gas grills are regularly maintained and inspected.

Install carbon monoxide monitors in homes near appliances.

Muscle cramps are usually harmless. However, they can also be symptoms of problems with circulation, nerves, metabolism and hormones. Less common causes of muscle cramps include diabetes, Parkinson's disease, hypoglycemia, anemia, thyroid and endocrine disorders.

If you experience frequent and severe muscle cramps, see your doctor.

The use of some medications can cause muscle cramps. For example, some diuretic medications prescribed for high blood pressure can deplete potassium. Too little potassium, calcium or magnesium in your diet can also contribute to cramps.

Here are some pointers for treating a cramp yourself: stop whatever you were doing when you got the cramp, massage the muscle and stretch it slowly, apply a cold pack to relax tense muscles.

To prevent cramps, do stretching exercises especially for those muscles that tend to cramp, and drink water regularly. If you are exerting yourself in heat or sweating for more than an hour, you should drink fruit juice or a sports beverage. For recurrent cramps that disturb your sleep, your doctor may prescribe a medication to relax your muscles.

If you have nocturnal leg cramping, ride a stationary bicycle for a few minutes before bedtime. The following stretching exercise is good, too. You should do it in the morning, before dinner and before going to bed every night:

Stand about 30 inches from a wall. Keep your heels on the floor, lean forward and put your hands on the wall. Then, move your hands slowly up the wall as far as you can reach comfortably. Hold the stretched position for 30 seconds. Release. Repeat twice.

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## THE HEALTHY SENIOR BY FRED CICETTI

[Editor's Note: Fred Cicetti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to fred@healthygeezer.com. All Rights Reserved ©2009 by Fred Cicetti.]

Q: What exactly is a "charley horse" and why do I get them in my legs at night?

A: According to the American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms, the term "charley horse" was first used in the 1880s by baseball players to describe a muscle cramp. No one knows the true origin, but the dictionary says: "Among the more likely theories proposed is that it alludes to the name of either a horse or an afflicted ball player who limped like one of the elderly draft horses formerly employed to drag the infield."

Seniors are more likely to get charley horses because of muscle loss that starts in our 40s. And your remaining muscles don't work as efficiently as they used to. Studies show that about 70 percent of adults older than 50 experience nocturnal leg cramps.

A cramp is an involuntary contracted muscle that does not relax. The common locations for muscle cramps are the calves, thighs, feet, hands, arms and the rib cage. Cramps can be very painful. Muscles can cramp for just seconds, but they can continue for many minutes.

Almost all of us have had muscle cramps, but no one knows for sure why they happen. However, many healthcare professionals attribute cramping to tired muscles and poor stretching. Other suspected causes are dehydration, exerting yourself when it's hot, flat feet, standing on concrete, prolonged sitting, and being in some leg positions while sedentary.

## SEEKING ORAL HISTORIES FOR MUSEUM COLLECTION AND VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING EXHIBIT

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is seeking to conduct oral history interviews with Seminole veterans and family members of veterans. The interviews will become a part of the existing oral history collection of the Tribal Museum. In the interview, you may choose what you would like to speak about. If you give permission, the interview might be considered for use in the exhibits to be created within the new Veteran's Memorial Building in Brighton. We hope that Seminole veterans will share stories for the benefit of current and future generations, as we look to honor your dedication and service.

To participate contact:

Elizabeth Lowman  
Oral History Coordinator  
Phone: 863-903-1113 ext. 12210  
elizabethlowman@semtiobe.com

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# Announcements E

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to **Joshlynn Micco** for receiving the I Believe in You, Principal's Citizenship, "B" Honor Roll, Effort, First Place Ribbon and Way to Read Awards.

Love,  
Mom and Dad (John & Brandy Micco-Romine)

Congratulations to **Dakota Micco** for receiving the Fantastic First Grader, "B" Honor Roll, Effort, Incredibly Kind to Your Classmates, First Place Ribbon in Physical Education, Principal's Citizenship and I Believe in You Awards.

We are very proud of all you accomplished for this year and your dedication, hard work, positive attitude and success.

Love,  
Mom and Dad (John & Brandy Micco-Romine)



Congratulations to **Malakai Micco** for receiving the Participation and Achievement, Excellence in Music, "B" Honor Roll, Effort, Principal's Citizenship, Best Word Watcher, Best Researcher of Information and First Place Physical Education Awards.

Love,  
Mom and Dad (John & Brandy Micco-Romine)



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



I would like to send a happy birthday wish to my dad, who is gratefully turning 75 years young, and who has always been there for me and my family. Thanks for being there for us. Thanks for being you. Hope you enjoy your day.

And a birthday wish to my granddaughter who is turning 2 years old. You

should be glad to share the same birthday as your great-papa Micco.

Hope you both get what you both want on that day. Glad to have both of you in my life. Have a good one to the both of you.

Love you both very much,  
Leta/Nana

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## IN MEMORIAM



### How Lucky Got His Name

Lucky was born on Feb. 18, 1988 at Memorial Hospital on Johnson Street in Hollywood.

When he was born he was a healthy baby of 9 pounds and 19 inches. Everything was normal, but like many babies, he had yellow jaundice. His was worse than others' so I had to leave him at the hospital and return every four hours to feed him, since I breastfed all of my children.

My husband, Sugarfoot, talked to the doctors to see if there was something we could do to have him at home. The doctors gave us a machine that looked like a fish tank with a blue light on top. I was to keep a schedule of every time I removed him from this machine.

In loving memory of **Tiffany and Pammy**. Happy birthday, girls!! We cherish every day we got to share with you. We miss your smiles

The only time I could remove him was to change his diaper, bathe or feed him. Other than that I could not hold my baby or cuddle with him for as long as he was in the machine.

The hospital staff let us take the machine home on a Sunday and said they would be back on the following Friday to check on Lucky. When that Friday came for them to check on Lucky, Sugarfoot said "He'll be lucky if he gets to stay."

He, however, did get to stay home. Ever since then we called him Lucky, but his real name was Guy Charles Stewart.

I will always love you my son. You will never be forgotten.

Love,  
Mom (Nettie Doctor Stewart)

and laughs and our hearts are always with you.

Love,  
Us

## TRAVEL STORY



Photos Submitted by Offie Tiger Ballentine

At Left: Offie Tiger Ballentine, a five-year veteran biker, from Hollywood toured the Cherokee, N.C. area aboard her Harley-Davidson® Fat-boy® trike April 14-19. Among other stops on her vacation, Ballentine rode the famous Dragon's Tail, an 11 mile stretch of road with 318 hairpin turns that go through North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains, ending in Tennessee. In addition to riding the Dragon's Tail, Ballentine, who said biking is her favorite hobby, has also ridden in the Key West Poker Run and during Daytona's Bike Week. She said in August she might make the trip to Sturgis, S.D. for the 69th annual Sturgis Rally, one of the largest and most well known motorcycle events in the country.

## GRADUATES



Special congratulations to my two 2009 graduates, **Victor P. Osceola** and **Jewel Alice Frank-Wright**.

Victor graduated from American Heritage in May and is headed off to college for three years in July. Jewel graduated from Toddler Tech Academy of Davie, Fla. Thank you to Mrs. Ghazala and Ms. Johanna for being great teachers and supportive with the whole class.

I visualize nothing but the best for each of you two. You are both very precious, very loving, strong minded and very spoiled by grandma. From day one you two have brought many happy moments and silly and sad times that grow more special with each passing day.

Thank you for being a part of my life, stay focused, remember where you are from, and be respectful and nothing but positivity will guide you through that will fulfill your happiness.

One love for you always,  
Grandma (Virginia), Eddie, Shelli, Jesse, Grandpa/Carol, Barnards, Tammie/Ray, Vickie, Mama (Valerie), Wesley, Uncle Vince/Camella



## POEMS

### A Poet In A Coffeehouse

She turned and looked and I became so involved with her smile, so much so that we melded as one and her prayers were heartfelt tears with a beauty seldom seen. I was so transported and stirred by her remarks, absorbed in each and every renewing breath, replenished by the sincere sparkle in her eyes, embraced in a radiance of tender passions. A poet with a note pad and pen was rifling through his writings, saying, "I will be a poet in a coffeehouse that has been abandoned that is being occupied by other poets that has been abandoned and that is still being occupied by other poets and where I still perform my poetry to this very day!" I reasoned right then and there that the lady's style and elegance had harnessed me to the sun, spiraling me through time, and I was so enchanted at the thought of her.

— Elgin Jumper

June 2, 2009

### An Explanation of Shakespeare

Now Shakespeare didn't think of himself as a playwright. No, as far as he was concerned, he was a poet, a bard, if you will. And to him, "a Muse of fire" was never "to be, or not to be" for which "Now is the winter of our discontent" for which methinks thou art, indeed, art thou and "forever and forever farewell" and praytell "I am Caesar" yea, "we band of brothers" alas, "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" for he was "the God of Battles, steel," and so he cried, "When shall we three meet again? In thunder, lightning, or in rain?" for he was "and at his heels, leash'd in like hounds, should famine, sword, and fire crouch for employment." O, he was "such stuff as dreams are made on" "the noblest Roman of them all" and "what dreams may come." "Such men are dangerous" "and thus the native hue of resolution is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought," and not a playwright, but a poet, a bard, if you will, for "Alas, poor Yorick! ... a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy."

— Elgin Jumper

June 7, 2009

### If You Only Knew

If you only knew how beautiful you are to me...  
The feeling I have deep inside  
If you only knew how special you are to me...  
How I would do anything to see you smile  
If you only knew how frustrated I truly am...  
How confused you make me feel  
If you only knew the battles I fight to continue this charade...  
The music I crave from your laugh  
If you only knew how much your presence means to me...  
The relief I feel when I no longer need a façade  
If you only knew how I long to gaze upon your soul...  
The silence we share which speaks volumes...  
If you only knew the absolute joy I feel whenever you're near me...  
The heart wrenching pain I feel every time you leave me  
If you only knew the thoughts that bounce throughout my mind...  
And if you did, what would you see?  
Tell me, would it be a stranger?  
Or would you still see me?

A Hollywood Love Thing,  
— Alex Tucker  
Otter Clan